

# SEVEN DAYS

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

# 2013

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critically important fine balance, and I believe that you have readers who do so well. Your readers have to hear alternative policy, and they want to know all their political choices. You can do greater service to the truth, Steven Deyo, for I do challenge Peter Shumlin: What I look in essence, I make up for with web capacity Steven Deyo performs Vermont's corporate domination of politics and covers up a choice that all Vermonters, not just Steven Deyo, should have. Emily Perren, The Elderly Candidate, the Governor 2008

David Payton  
BUTNEY

## STEEPLE CHASER

[Re "In the Wake of Arson, the Congressional Church Reaches Back for Its Future," November 27] I'm not religious, but I feel the power of ritual and know the profound art and architecture it can engender. Ritual promises works that cross cultures and exceed the boundaries of time. So I was shocked and sick at heart when the noble 160-year-old steeple of the



College Street Congregational Church was destroyed by arson in October 1968 when charred, black and skeletal, it retained its beauty you could see the fine proportions even more clearly than when it had been whole: steeple, spire, pinnacles, ornaments, arching the sky.

Work began almost immediately after the five streets cordoned off, chain-link fences erected, gate lifts and equipment brought to what had quickly become a construction site. Workers carefully dismantled the steeple, section by section. One day, I saw a man sit in his pickup snapping pictures as a particularly beautiful piece was gently lowered to the ground, crumpling the sidewalk.

Because of the care and attention of the demolition, I was lulled into believing that the spire would immediately be reconstructed — built anew. Last week the repairs had been completed, and in record time. They'd put a huc on top of the tower. Where the spire had been was a practical, low, chainly roofline, effectively crushing the entire thrust of the church, rendering it ordinary, mute, its culture attuned to earth toward God desecrated.

But the story isn't over. It's a temporary fix. Ann Wilson, the architect responsible for the church's renovation several years ago, tells me that plans are to reconstruct the steeple to look just as it did. But first construction must be brought up to 21st-century code. The insurance needs to be worked out, and the water damage must be addressed — the main body of the church is not usable.

Even the assassin knew it was beautiful. As he was being led away by the police, he asked if he could just turn around and watch the fire.

Barbara Zucker  
RUM, BOSTON

## FROM ROASTING TO WRESTLING

That was a nice article on Paul "The Bachelor" Vachon ("Strongman Santa," December 11). He is a life lived long and well. Also Lovett's journalistic skills transcend the food writing she does with such enthusiasm.

Charmel E. Burrows  
Nashville, TN

*Editor's note: Food writer Alice Levitt got her start in journalism writing for TIME Magazine.*

**LEA IS CANADIAN!**

Idly scanning the full-page *Americana* Apparel advert on the back of a recent *Seven Days* [December 4] really caught us off our wine head. Reading the "Meet

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**LAST CHANCE FOR 2013 PROMOTIONS!**

*the*  
**MAGNIFICENT 7**

**MUST SEE MUST DO THIS WEEK**  
**EDITED BY COURTNEY COPE**

②

Tillich 98

### Do some Good Times

What says humans how all the fun? Certainly not the costumed characters that accompany their people at the annual **DogParade**. Led by DogWatch Resort president Mike Smith, his wife Lisa Rowland, their goatherd, folks and their four-legged companions hit the boardwalk for an afternoon of wings and burlesque at the **PAWfect** Dog Day.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING OPPOSITE 54

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### Building Backward from the End

### Ladies First

Laos psychiatrist and author **Polly Young-Kasura** entered her profession by way of Buddhism and Jungian analysis, to which she was introduced in 1971. She incorporates these elements into a consideration of the female psyche in *108th Women's Ward* as part of the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesday lectures.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING OPP. PAGE 57

①

EDMUND S. L. GUTHRIE AND

### All Together Now

performers of the **Young Traditional Ensemble** may be young in age, but they are most assuredly old souls. Former members of the local music and dance organization reunite to pay tribute to their artistic roots. Taking the stage, Hans Zee, Jeh Kulu Ju and others present a varied program that reflects the diverse profiles and pursuits

SEE CALL NUMBER LISTING FOR PAGE NO.

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## Out & About

Nothing says winter in Vermont like getting outside to appreciate snow-covered landscapes. Marched in the heart of the Northeast, Killington, the Killington Tree to Noodle Center boasts some of the state's best responsive terrain. On the **Moonlight Ski and Snowboard** trails take advantage of well-thru-out, refilled by ketches, then warm up with hot sauce and a good brew.

SEE CHLORAMPHENICOL CHLORIDE 50

5

IN WITH THE NEW

By now 2012 Reviewers welcome 2014's *2014 Night* collaborators in Burlington and St. Johnsbury. Enter where and musical acts—including the Starline Rhythm Boys (pictured), who perform in both venues—reflect the wealth of local and regional talent. Other parties and shows offer a wide array of festivities for the taking. So, far, the north and now in the New Year in style!

LIFE STORY — IN PLACE AND

6

**Winning Combination**

Along with the 100,000 copies of the book, the authors also made a video of the book's creation. The video, titled "The Book of David," is available on the book's website. It shows the authors, David and David, and the book's cover. The video is a short, 10-minute film that tells the story of the book's creation. It is a must-watch for anyone interested in the book.

— 1998 —

⑦

## Renaissance Women

In 2012, we installed a sculpture by Enzo Mari entitled *Il Gesso Alpiro* to mark, a sculpture for an art park, it has now Milan shopping plans. An avid gardener who often goes to Fieschi on his car, she is a native of the hills for the project. Reflecting the recent topography two concrete maraballa of blue color of gesso. The sculpture and local history of nature.

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## FAIR GAME OPEN SEASON ON VERMONT POLITICS BY PAUL HENRY



# The Year in Politics

**F**or a nonactive year, 2013 offered plenty of news to keep your local political columnist employed.

We'll go ahead and chalk that up as a victory.

To be sure, the biggest news in Vermont this year involved nuclear power plants, fighter jets and not terribly fascinating IT systems.

But there were plenty of other little stories that registered — for at least five seconds. Remember the state plane saga? Potted plant-gate? The gubernatorial acupuncturist? Gucci beer?

Doubtful — and that's probably for the best. If you walk away from 2013 with at least a hint memory of the following top-10 political events of the year, you're doing OK. Here they are in loose chronological order.

### Gun Show

For a brief moment last December after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School, it appeared as if 2013 would be the year politicians in Vermont and Washington, D.C., would pass some sort of gun laws.

You mighta noticed. It wasn't, and they didn't.

In January, Senate Majority Leader **POL BARTON** (D-Chittenden) introduced legislation to ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition, only to withdraw it five days later under withering criticism. Though Statehouse leaders promised hearings and legislation to address gun violence, the issue died a quick death in Montpelier.

Elsewhere, the debate raged on. In D.C., Sen. **PIET WILDE** (D-Vt.) presided over the Senate Judiciary Committee's votes to ban assault weapons, expand background checks and crack down on gun transfers. Those bills didn't make it past the Senate floor, but they did attract the support of Vermont's actively gun-friendly delegation. Leahy, Sen. **HOWARD SANDERS** (I-Vt.) and Congressman **PETER WELLS** (D-Vt.).

Back in Burlington, Mayor **MIKE WATKINSON** took up arms against guns, joining a national gun-control group and calling for an assault-weapons ban. The city council eventually settled on more modest measures mandating safe storage, banning guns from bars and limiting open carry to the homes of those suspected of committing domestic violence.

Those still require approval from Burlington voters and the state legislature.

### Shimlin the Gipper

When he took the podium in January to deliver his inaugural and budget addresses, Sanders fired a shot across the bow at the liberal legislators in the audience.

Employing Reagan-esque language, Sanders vowed to fight the wet-lire state. Specifically, he proposed capping payments to those eligible for Fresh Up — Vermont's version of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program — and shelling \$17 million from the Elected Income Tax Credit to childcare subsidies. Laughs barked at the proposals, and pretty much everyone in the Statehouse laughed at another Shimlin plan to fund \$10 million worth of energy penalties by taxing back-up tickets sold at service clubs, such as the local VFW.

While the legislature endorsed Sanders's original proposals, the governor got the last laugh.

## REMEMBER THE STATE PLANE SAGA? POTTED PLANT-GATE? THE GUBERNATORIAL SIX-POINTER? GUCCI BEER? DOUBTFUL — AND THAT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST.

A months-long standoff with the House and Senate over whether to tax everything from income to sales to utilities TV sets, which Sanders provided and foreclosed any new "Bernie-bus" taxes.

OK, except those hitting gasoline and property tax budgets.

When legislators attempted a last-minute tax action that would have cut taxes for 73 percent of Vermonters and raised them for 3 percent, Sanders objected. Calling it an "on-the-fly" scheme to raise taxes, he stirred down House Speaker **BRAD SHERN** (D-Morrisville) and Senate President **JOHN CAMPBELL** (D-Windsor) and killed the plan.

### Breaking the Legman

To please an unhappy Senate Democratic caucus and hold on to his job as pro tem, Campbell presided January to fast-track several pieces of socially liberal legislation that had been stuck in committee for years.

It worked. Campbell declared his challengers and earned accolades for allowing the majority view of his caucus to prevail over powerful committee chairs, such as the socially conservative Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, **BOB WATERS**.

By the time the legislature adjourned in May, liberals scored three major victories. They demonstrated possession of small amounts of marijuana, granted driver's

licenses to noncitizens and permitted doctors to prescribe life-ending medication to terminally ill patients.

Shimlin, who supported all three proposals, happily signed them into law.

### Dodging Trouble

Fresh off a solid finish in the legislative session, Shimlin found himself playing defense in May when an aggravated neighbor claimed his deer roppied by the gun.

Faced with a looming tax sale the previous fall, a distraught ex-con named **JERRY DOUGL** had agreed to sell his 16-acre, East Montpelier homestead to Shimlin for \$180,000. The property was assessed at \$283,700 at the time, though a subsequent reassessment requested by Shimlin cut that figure to \$146,000.

The events date on the horses, Dodge told reporters he'd come to regret the deal he'd cut with the governor and waive his own lawyer. While critics questioned whether Shimlin took advantage of men with an eighth-grade education, the governor was, in fact, trying to help a neighbor in "terrible straits."

The controversy dogged Shimlin throughout the slow summer months, until he and Dodge struck a new deal to reverse the sale and return the property to Dodge.

### Chairman's Choice

Political prognosticators scratched their heads last December when Leahy turned down a chance to replace the late senator **CAROL MOULT** (D-Hartford) as chairman of the strategically all-powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. Instead, the newly named senate president pro tem stepped in at the top of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

With the benefits of hindsight, the chairman's choice makes all the sense in the world.

In a post-earnings world of austerity, sequestration and shutdowns, Appropriations is what it used to be. In 2013, Judiciary was where the action was.

After a protracted fight, Leahy succeeded in reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. And he presided over major committee battles over gun laws and immigration reform — two of President Obama's top priorities. Even Leahy's long-gestated surveillance reform took center stage following ex-NSA contractor **EDWARD SNOWDEN**'s infamous leaks.

### Laboring for Votes

Two major national labor unions teamed up in Vermont last winter to fight for collective bargaining rights for independent home-care workers who contract with the state.



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When they won that battle, the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees faced off against one another to represent the new 2020-number union.

Throughout the summer, the SEIU tried to convince base-care workers it had more national experience representing their interests. AFSCME, which already represented more than 20,000 municipal workers in Vermont, portrayed itself as the local choice.

At the end of July, the SEIU unexpectedly dropped out of the race, citing there was an uphill battle. Two months later, AFSCME formally won the right to represent the largest collective bargaining unit in the state.

### Nuclear Disenfranchisement

On August 14, Ratney Corp. prevailed over the State of Vermont in its long-running bid to become appointing Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. A federal appellate court agreed with Ratney that state legislators had overstepped their bounds in February 2010 when they cited nuclear safety as a reason to withhold an operating license from the plant.

But just two weeks after the ruling, Ratney announced it would close down Yankee saying, at the end of 2014.

"The plant was no longer financially viable," Ratney chairman **and** **owner** told Bloomberg, citing low natural-gas prices and high operational costs.

The decision was a huge victory for Vermont's anti-nuclear activists and a crushing blow to the plant's 600 workers — not to mention the town of Vermont.

Many of questions remain, including when Ratney will complete decommissioning the plant, how the company will pay for it and what will become of the spent fuel rods stored on-site. High-level meetings between Ratney officials, the Shandon administration and Attorney General **Bill** **Connell** were ongoing when *Seven Days* went to press.

### Vermont Health Disconnect

Like most states, Vermont struggled to launch its federally mandated health insurance exchange on October 1 that ushered in the state's new health care system. Vermont hoped those waiting for business with fewer than 50 employees to see it.

When many consumers and business owners found themselves unable to arrive, Vermont Health Connect, Shandon pledged to qualify it as the online marketplace that with problems still plaguing the site in early November, Shandon moved to allow business owners to bypass the exchange or delay enrolling until the end of March. By December the system still couldn't tell small-business employees who successfully enrolled through the site, so Shandon delayed their coverage, too.

As VHC's problems come to light throughout the fall, Shandon kept changing his mind about how serious they were and when he first knew about them. First he claimed that the payment-processing malfunction was a "hacking-bugger." Then he apologized, profusely for his administrator's missteps and indeed he didn't know anything was wrong until after Labor Day. Then he claimed he had been warning the public about it since July.

## POLITICS

### Republican Woes

Shambles during grace this year came in the form of a broke, lone-draft and leaving Vermont Republican Party.

Throughout 2012, Lt. Gov. **Paul** **Scott** openly battled with Vermont GOP chairman **Jack** **Landry** over control of the party. Scott accused Landry of shuffling leadership by abusing the rhetoric of the national party, while Landry said the two were attempting a power grab.

In September, at Scott's courted candidates to run against Landry, the party chairman suffered a serious but unexpected medical crisis that hospitalized him for more than a month. That didn't stop former U.S. Senate candidate **John** **MacGovern** from Scott ally **NEW** **MEMBERSHIP** from challenging Landry for his job.

Just days before November 6 party elections, Landry dropped out and endorsed MacGovern. But by a 48-30 vote, MacGovern was, handing control over the party to Scott.

A month later, the two got pulled off a highly successful fundraiser featuring New Jersey Gov. **Chris** **Cristie** — a hopeful sign for the pitiful party. But will any top-tier Republicans step up next November to challenge the state's top Democratic lawmakers?

Scott? It ain't his fault, good.

### Fighter Fight

The debate over whether to have a squadron of F-16 fighter jets in Vermont reaches its fever pitch this year.

A well-organized and prize-winning opposition kept the pressure on local and state officials alike. But business leaders, state-wide public and members of the Vermont National Guard fought back.

In the end, it's unclear how much all the local sound and fury mattered. Hundreds of miles away, Air Force planners decided to send 36 of the planes to Burlington International Airport, starting in 2020. Locals, Shandon, Weinberger and **Jul** **Gov** **Scott** even announced the move at a racoon, Guard-only event December 2 in Vermont Air National Guard hangar.

Despite the decision, F-16 opponents say they'll fight on — and plan to sue the Air Force. So you might see this one on next year's up-to-10 list, too.

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The Passage of Paris and the Value of Vermont in the Court of Burlington



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# Whatever Happened To...?

Seven Days writers update news stories from 2013

BY MARK DAVIS CHARLES EICHACKER KATHRYN FLAGG JEFF GOOD PAUL HEINTZ KEVIN J. KELLEY & KEN PICARD

**M**ost of the big news stories of 2013 are still getting ink—and pencils. The F-15 fight isn't over yet—or, so say opponents. Victims of serial killer Jared Knapp continue to turn up. OTC rules are working on the multi-million-dollar details of Vermont's tobacco shutdown. And the business manager of Seven Days is still waiting for a call back about medical issues since from the IT department at Vermont Health Connect.

You've read all about it.

But in the spirit of "alternative" journalism, our reporters are always on the lookout for a story that no other media outlet is reporting. Why are some Asian massage places open at all hours of the night?—even in far-flung corners of Vermont? Ken Picard conducted a single investigation and turned up glaring evidence of human trafficking and unarming cops in our own backyard.

Also from the police blotter: OTCs in Wisconsin and Burlington opened fire on

suspects, with results that ranged from alarming to tragic, and a planned 9th anniversary ended in shooting the Shillineau 8.0.

Some Seven Days stories played out in the political realm, as lawmakers gave formal motions to the right to seek a doctor's help to die, or courts linked hate groups out of the state employer charitable pool, and Champlain Valley supervisors tried to board local and clear that parents want school out for summer.

Other stories sprung up from the grass roots, as volunteers launched a firm to make goat meat available to the poorest group of Americans, entrepreneurs built a food-powered burger to bring Vermont farm products to the Big Apple, and residents of Jericho and Underhill tried to resolve their feud over what to do with a sweet-gift affair.

None of these dramas ended the day you read about them. To that point, Seven Days reporters followed up with their own eyes to get the latest on everything from state daycare regulations and Burlington's bike lock registry to Madison's Goddard College. What they found is nothing short of...well, read on. ☺

## CHILD CARE

### State to Release New Rules for Childcare Providers — One Year Later Than Promised

JAN 30

In June 2012 a 9-year-old boy standing in line at a State Children's Center in Essex Junction walked off the premises and into his family's car on Route 100 in Essex Junction. Looking for a missing child, police pulled out of the way. A subsequent investigation by Vermont Child Development Division found that daycare staffers never alerted authorities that the boy had gone missing. It required law enforcement to find the car and the boy.

At the time, the state was in the process of revising its rules for daycare providers. The rules were supposed to be available to parents and other child-care workers by June 2013. However, in Seven Days and the parenting publication, *Essex Junction*, we wrote about the difficulty for potential clients to know if daycare centers regulatory history—even when negligent and potentially life-threatening incidents have occurred there repeatedly.

The law requires that every regulated daycare provider be inspected at least once a year. But CDD officials acknowledge that they don't have the resources for a small facility. Making it virtually impossible to certify well as well as some problems of abuse. Some facilities, especially home-based programs, can open for business and operate for years without a state regulator ever visiting their facility. The same officials admitted that Vermont's chronic childcare shortage prevents us from taking as many of them open as possible—and putting us in a consequences.

**UPDATE:** CDD Deputy Commissioner Susan Murphy told Seven Days and *Essex Junction* last January that new rules governing daycare providers were due to be released "in three or four months." That process appears to be at least a year behind schedule.

Murphy now reports that a new set of proposed regulations governing after-school programs is being finalized for review by an interagency committee in January.

A second set of regulations governing licensed day care centers, and a third for regulated in-home daycare providers, are scheduled for the same committee's review in February. Only after these follow-ups will the proposed rules be published online and available for public comment. None of them is likely to take effect before January 2015.

**Why the delay?** According to Murphy, the process proved more time-consuming and cumbersome than initially expected.

More troubling: The new rules may not adequately fill out the

concerns raised in the January 30 cover story. Murphy claimed the state is as much about facilities as teaching a daycare provider's regulatory history will soon be more comprehensive and user-friendly, with violations outlined in greater detail.

But some daycare providers are lobbying to limit the length of time violations remain public. Under one proposal, if a program goes five years without a significant violation, the provider could petition the state to have its violation history erased from view.

"I'd like to get some family input on that," Murphy said.

There is some good news to report. Murphy noted that CDD has increased staff of licensing field specialists from seven to nine, then allowing the state to conduct more inspections. The goal is still to visit every regulated daycare program in the state at least once, preferably twice, a year.

Governor Peter Shumlin has also made passage of a bill that will be a high priority for the 2014 legislative session. If and when that bill passes, Murphy said, it will likely include financial incentives for daycare programs to conduct more staff training and offer tuition reimbursement for families. As a result, she said, "There will be a lot of pressure to improve quality."

**Relief in Care:** A new center near management and has since changed its name to Rock for The Stars. In November, the state notified Paula Lake House Play School, which the state also called out for repeated and serious violations, that it no longer had a license to operate. It promptly shut down.

A third daycare center in Essex Junction, Knappton Corner, which was cited for 16 violations in 2013 alone, closed up suddenly in early December, leaving about 40 families without any daycare.



## GOVERNMENT

### Nothing High-Speed About Campaign to Transform Troubled Burlington Telecom

**JAN 30** Almost a year ago a group of Burlingtonians had the idea of forming a cooperative that would purchase the Queen City's troubled municipal telecom to keep it from being sold off to some out-of-state entity. Opponents at the first Local 1000 board election in City Market, a shining example of a successful co-op they imagined subscribers as a model for their own venture. It would be a fair profit enterprise managing public infrastructure, explained Jean-Marcin, a social financial consultant who has devoted time and money to the initiative.

To co-proposers argued that Burlington Telecom has a world-class fiber optic network that could be an enormous asset to city residents and businesses — as long as key decisions are made locally.

In the end, however, are some formidable obstacles. Marcin explained that the co-op would need to raise at least \$50 million to be considered a serious suitor for BT. About half that, some would take the form of traditional financing from banks, with the rest to come of BT shareholders.

Marcin's supporters pledged, and BT retains to private buyers their existing co-op holders.

He knew it would be tough to convince potential investors to buy into what amounts to a bankrupt business, BT lacks the means to pay back Burlington taxpayers the \$18.8 million it borrowed without authorization from the city's own past. BT Capital is the mainstay along BT with the rest of other companies that the telecom infrastructure is recovering the \$23.8 million that it borrowed the ability to use, and will the update. The six right holders are a goal of collecting a total of \$200,000 in pledges from 1000 members by last November's day.

**News:** Two months later, Keep BT Local is halfway to its goal. And of course, it had received \$127,000 in pledges from 448 members, according to its website.

"We're not stopped, but it's been really slow," Marcin said in a recent interview. "It's difficult for any outside party to push forward with funding financing when we don't know how the litigation will turn out."

Even the most zealous some capitalists pass at the prospect of buying into an operation that could have its entire infrastructure stripped away as part of a legal battle. No one is going to make a deal for BT until that uncertainty is resolved.

Early last year, it looked as though Burlington and BT Capital might reach an out-of-court settlement. Negotiations foundered, however, and the two sides now appear headed for a showdown in federal court starting in March.

By then the Keep BT Local campaign may be all but forgotten — even by some Burlingtonians inclined to support it. "There's going to be a point where we'll need to rebuild momentum," Marcin conceded. But, like BT, the co-op doesn't have sufficient resources to fund a marketing campaign to sell itself.

— K. J. K.



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# Housing

## State Reins in Motel Stays for Homeless, but Demand and Cost Remain High

**Jan 30** With an eye on the budget, lawmakers last winter began spending money to subsidize and cap the practice of Vermont housing homeless individuals and families in motels when shelters are full. In January 2012, the state paid for more than 28,000 motel stays for 14,000 individuals and families at a cost of \$1.2 million. It's a significant increase over the previous year. By January, state officials estimated spending would reach \$4 million for the end of the fiscal year.

Seven Days published the first ever report on per motel spending in January. Just which motels were benefiting most from this state program? Tipping the scale of managers were the Little Farm motels in Williston and Shelburne, which in South Burlington the lowest do-motels received combined \$21,042 for housing the homeless in 2012.

Costs we left the only common to the programs. Homeless and adults complained about the conditions in which they were housed. Many motel rooms didn't have a place to prepare or store food. Some motels barred the state-funded guests from using amenities such as the pool or conference facilities. The message: 20-year-old motels in Valley Forge told Seven Days by mail. "You're not even worthy of staying in our state dorms."



**Update:** The state reached up a \$4.2 million motel bill in fiscal year 2013. Last spring, legislators took the Vermont Agency of Human Services with striking bond numbers, allocating just \$1.5 million for fiscal year 2014. AHS officials came up with new eligibility rules that they said would keep costs in check, but advocates for the homeless balked at a new points-based system they said would leave too many vulnerable Vermonters out in the cold.

AHS subsequently decided back the rules, which took effect in August. Under the revised system, motel vouchers are available when shelters are full, in catastrophic situations such as fires or domestic violence, and for individuals over 65, pregnant women in their third trimester, families with children under the age of 6 and for disabled individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income benefits. Others can

qualify for a motel if they tally enough points through the new eligibility rules.

Stay lengths have been shortened. Between August and the end of November, state officials received 1865 applications for motel vouchers and granted housing for 50 percent of them.

Will those new rules keep motel spending in check? Motels the closest to the legislators hoped. Department of Children, and Families, Deputy Commissioner Richard Giddings says for the moment, services continue to be in track to spend almost as much as last year, but Giddings says that without the new rules, spending would have been even more high — around \$5 million.

Giddings says the rise in cost is due in part to the rising costs of motel stays, and because the state is serving more children than at the same time before. "There are more Vermonters that need more assistance," says Giddings. The state has lost between 750 and 1000 Section 8 housing vouchers over the last year due to the federal sequestration spending cuts. People living at the edge of homelessness or a short stretch closer to the brink.

"We are here to help a very Vermonters," says Giddings. "At the same time, you, the legislature and taxpayers want us to administer this program as efficiently as we can."

— K. B.

# LAW ENFORCEMENT

## Compromise Law on License-Plate Info Leaves Both Sides Happy Enough

**Feb 13** privacy advocates insisted the law when they learned that more than 30 Vermont law-enforcement agencies had obtained and were using using portable, automatic license-plate readers. By scanning thousands of plates per hour, the machines allow police to pinpoint the location of vehicles to see if they recognize them, outstanding warrants, information captured by the ACLU goes into the case database available to state and federal law-enforcement. Police said the databases are available to look for missing or stolen cars and missing people, but the American Civil Liberties Union and some lawmakers expressed concern about the potential for abuse — as instruments to track and monitor innocent citizens, with little regulation, police have been storing of information gathered by the vehicles for up to four years, even if it wasn't part of a criminal investigation.

When Seven Days first published its report on queries for information on plates to the license plates of two reporters from the state police refused to turn over the information. "We could have cameras controlled by the state police looking at every single person that drive in this state of Vermont, and that would go on long way towards public safety and so forth," said State Sen. Tom Ashe, one of the lawmakers who sponsored bill requiring police to purge license-plate data after 90 days. If the public would attorney's think that's an invasion of their lives and privacy.

**Update:** After placing restrictions on use of the license-plate data passed both chambers and was signed into law by Gov. Peter Stuenkel. But the message asking



prosecutors tell everyone with a bill less than they tested.

The law requires police to delete the information after 18 months. The ACLU had hoped to limit that to 30 days, executive director Allen Gilbert said.

"We were happy and not so happy. We were happy that the legislature agreed for the first time to regulate data collection. What we weren't happy with was the amount of time the law gives police to retain the data," Gilbert said.

Public Safety Commissioner Keith Flynn, who had initially proposed a two-year retention period, pronounced the law "fine." Meanwhile, license plate readers have become more entrenched as a standard law enforcement tool in Vermont. Police deployed them during several border crises when alleged Boston Marathon bomber suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was on the lam.

— M. D.





# ANIMALS

## Fairlee Hunting Park Makes Peace with State But May Shut Down Anyday

**may 06** Fairlee, the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife's second Wild Halls Preserve, is a captive-hunting facility in Fairlee. In sports without submitting legally mandated documentation on for every animal in the property. That meant concerns that the preserve could represent a drain on Vermont's income, the possible impact of chronic wildlife disease, a full-time staff of officials that, like wildlife officers, has no known cuts.

While CWD has not yet been found in Vermont, it has spread to at least 21 other states, emerging from deer populations and now infecting species like millions of dollars in state and federal efforts. Almost all the outdoor hunters and bow hunters are hunting for deer. The outdoor hunters and bow hunters are hunting for deer. The outdoor hunters and bow hunters are hunting for deer.

Wild Halls has been visited by Fairlee since 1960 to hunt elk, Spanish goats. Mountain goats are not a native Vermont prey as much as \$200,000 for a single trophy kill. In March interview Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Breen said the state's wildlife has been less than enforcing state regulations of Wild Halls.



History of there is a place who think we should have moved this thing more quickly you could make an argument that they're right. Breen said

**update** In September, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department issued Wild Halls an operating permit that allows it to let out mountain goat species of deer, sheep and goat within the 800-acre hunting enclosure through February 2018. Breen and others are no longer among the options.

**Fish & Wildlife Maj.** Donna Rainhardt and the preserve filed all necessary paperwork documenting its animals and safety measures, and workers made a site visit to the facility.

There have still been no reports of CWD in Vermont. "We haven't found any yet," Rainhardt said, but Wild Halls owners, Bill and Marlene Richter, aren't completely satisfied with how events have unfolded.

While they decided to talk to. Breen Days earlier this year, Marlene Richter said in a recent interview that she'd closed her business was unfairly regulated. "It's a well-run preserve," Richter said. "Our presence has always been in compliance with the state. If all the farm animals in the country were as healthy as our animals — our animals do! I have a collection, they have plenty of room."

The operating permit says that Wild Halls "has created a desire to end capture has led of the facility by December 31, 2008."

In the interview, Marlene Richter said the family was asking owners "day to day" and hasn't decided whether or not it will close the preserve.

"We're playing it by ear," she said.

— M.D.

# AGRICULTURE

## New American Community Goes for Goats at a Refugee-Run Farming Collective

**Apr 03** Most by the goats for refugees. This was the vision behind the Vermont Goat Collective, an immigrant-run farming project that emerged last spring on a farm in Colchester just a few miles from Vermont's largest concentrations of New Americans, in Windsor and Burlington.

The project aimed to solve several problems. Burlington's New American community had a long, complicated that finding the locally raised goats was all but impossible. Fewer goat owners in Vermont are steadily what is arguably the most consumed meat in the world. Most major Vermont dairy farmers are struggling to afford the business — milk sales — that are the inevitable byproduct of breeding goats but somewhat function on a daily basis.

On a more personal note, Chadi Dine wants the land farmer in the Goat Collective has that goat year was looking for a chance to reconnect with the spiritual traditions he left behind in Ethiopia and Nepal.

Chadi's Indian brother-in-law Tiao Dine set out to make a couple of goats. When Dine first reported on this venture in April, the goats were forty kids frolicking around in an old doghouse converted by the Vermont Land Trust. Dine and his brother Tiao had brought over a small herd of goats, an urban slaughterhouse to the growing operation but they hoped would someday employ several New American farmers.



Goat owners and Goat Collective founders Chadi Dine and Tiao Dine

**update** The farmers and volunteers scrambled to build that slaughterhouse in time for the October 8, 2018, and Hindu holidays of Kail and Dussehra, respectively. Some disagreements between the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Agency of Natural Resources over permitting, made the house especially tight, but in the end, the run-time slaughter facility — funded by state grants and matching funds — on Green Mountain Coffee Roasters — was finished by the end of September.

"We had solutions on there every weekend working on it," says Preadersberger, the volunteer who dreamed up the goat collective since. "The goats don't trust, and it all worked out."

Preadersberger says that, for her, the highlight of the season was the weekend of "candle lighting days" in late September. Dine and his goats on the upper field of the farm, near the barn, and families from Burlington and Windsor flooded in Colchester to pick out their animals. Dine was so great that leaders in the Khatonese and Khatonese communities devised a system for distributing the meat, putting families to share a single goat.

Altogether, the collective sold 117 goats, 77 of which were raised on the farm in Colchester. This particular custom slaughter facility allows customers to purchase a live animal on site and then legally butcher it right there. Dine brought in \$10,000 — which means he'll be able to operate his herd next year without goats funding.

In turn, the collective will plan to help another farmer get up and running next spring. The long-term vision calls for herders to share the farm's infrastructure while individually owning their goats.

"We surpassed our own expectations," Preadersberger says.

— E.E.

## AGRICULTURE

## Wind-Powered Barge Could Take Vermont Food Farther in 2014

APR  
23

Pennsbury farmer Erik Andrus spent more than a year rehabilitating a windmill and cast — to build a 19th-century style wind-powered cargo barge that could transport locally grown food and goods from the Champlain Valley to New York City. His goal wasn't just to prove it could be done. In the centuries since he lived

and as transport, it was commonplace to transport heavy crops by boat on Lake Champlain, the Hudson River and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Andrus wanted to prove that wind-powered water travel, which has been largely overlooked in discussions of sustainability and carbon-emissions reductions, could once again be a commercially viable along the Champlain Valley.

With financial and logistical support from his nonprofit sponsor, Montpelier Village Foundation, and help from scores of students and community volunteers, Andrus constructed a nearly 40-foot, flat-bottomed vessel to carry to tons of farm and forest products from Pennsbury to the Port of New York. The enterprise



was dubbed the Vermont Sail Freight Project, and Andrus envisioned the barge as a floating supermarket of sorts, making frequent stops along the way and selling along the way. As Andrus put it, "For small farmers of pure livestock, you're dead. If you can't get the stuff out, there's about half your value and only 20 percent of the value you'd have if you could sell it every time."

**News.** Word about the Vermont Sail Freight Project traveled faster than the Green. The vessel was named for the ancient Roman goddess of agriculture, who is also recognized as a status farm stop the golden dome of the Vermont Statehouse. After local and regional newspapers and broadcast outlets covered the story, publications as diverse as *Crain's New York Business*, the *New Yorker* and *National Geographic* wrote their own versions.

Contacted in mid-December at his Pennsbury farm, Andrus reported that the barge had finally been put away for the winter. "We accomplished pretty much everything we set out to do," he said, "so I can't complain."

The barge, which spent about a month on the water for fall, trade about a dozen states between Vermont and Brooklyn, N.Y. that which were at markets. In all, the mail carried 15 tons of freight — three times than initially expected — and with considerably more variety. According to Andrus, 37 participating farms produced 140 different products ranging from locally raised apples and maple syrup to wild-harvested mushrooms and goat-milk caramels.

In fact, Andrus said the "ridiculous variety" of goods actually proved problematic, in that many of the items weren't worked with prices. The crew also had trouble remembering where all the items were stored on the vessel.

"These logistical problems haunted us for the entire trip," he acknowledged. "So, we need to come up with a simpler model that's got more retail streamlining built into it."

Also needed, he said, is a more sustainable business model. As Andrus pointed out the team pulled off the trade mission "by the skin of our teeth," thanks largely to volunteer labor.

"But you can't run a trading company indefinitely as a volunteer project," he said. "We need to start paying people and having enough capital for buying products and paying our bills on time."

That could prove challenging, he noted, because the Vermont Sail Freight Project still lacks two "businesslike" to qualify for most nonprofit grants, yet lacks the corporate governance structure and business model to attract for-profit investors.

Nevertheless, Andrus and his team are already looking forward to the 2014 season, and hope to have the barge fully loaded and ready to sail when the locks open in mid-May. They're even discussing ways of expanding their reach north to Montreal and adding ocean-worthy vessels to travel south to the Caribbean to buy coffee beans and chocolate.

Are you interesting, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters? Lake Champlain Chocolate?

— K.R.

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OBITUARIES, VOWS  
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## MEMORIAM

### Denny Lane

As I understand it, Denny was born and spent a lot of his youth in the Atlantic City and New York City areas starting in 1947. As a youth he was into basketball, football, a water balloon fight, a pool and window and got really weird. He went to Washington College and Northern University, starting his college career at the age of 18 and graduating with a BA in international politics. Denny was a member of Young Americans for Freedom, in 1961 and led the national election William F. Buckley FIVE, national campaign until 1964. He was a campaign worker for the Barry Goldwater for President campaign until would have thought Denny was a Republican (in one sense). As one point he won the Vermont rep for ROPS (National Organization for Repealing Laws Against Rape). He was also a member of the Vermont Policy Project. He was into baseball and one of the Vermont Democratic Party (VDP) and in '66 and '68 received enough votes in the elections to make the Governor's Party the first wide political party in Vermont. By doing this he was able to place off opponents from most of the major publications in Vermont.

He ran for Vermont governor in '64 and '66 Vermont secretary of state in '66 and Vermont auditor in '68. He also ran against George B. Bush in 2000 in the last state of Vermont and Minnesota. Denny was an advocate for the end of marijuana prohibition for most of his life and played a major role in the 420 demand referendum in Burlington for the day. He became an influential in making people aware of the dangers of marijuana. He was the National Review the drinking, smoking, recreational use, the evils of drug prohibition and the display of gold jewelry. American flag, you know what it means? He ran several anti-Bush/Obama/ McCain/ American anti-Health Foods, anti-anti-war, you know it, he probably said it. He was also the one to introduce Guggenheim to the state of Vermont. While working for Advanced Management Research he convinced Bill Guggenheim and was able to sell the Guggenheim a couple of the Plasma light sculptures for their light show in 1975.



He loved his hobbies, fishing, baseball, "the Powder House, all classes" and wine, police and smoking weed. Oh, and he's not a great person, he's a great person.

He was also a longtime character of the New York Times and a very wealthy attorney in New York. Denny was a very wealthy attorney in New York. Denny was a very wealthy attorney in New York.

Denny was a very kind and gentle soul and at times very angry to meet, who would always go out of his way for his friends. He was a very kind and gentle soul and at times very angry to meet, who would always go out of his way for his friends.

He will be sadly missed by all that knew him. So Denny, don't forget to say hi to all the friends who party with him in the past, see you at the end of the World's Fair, remembering the GMP and Denny Lane. For info please contact: [engne201@gmail.com](mailto:engne201@gmail.com)

**Want to memorialize a loved one in Seven Days?**

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### JANUARY 2014

- 1/1 WED **Grace Mountain Mahler Festival: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony** @ Elroy Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College, Colchester
- 1/5 FR **Young Tradition Reunion** @ FlynnSpace
- 1/4 SAT **Exhibit: "Poodle Riot, 32 Years of Performances of the Flynn"** (and closer to see) @ Amy E. Tarrant Gallery
- 1/9 THU **VT Artists' Space Grant Work-in-Progress Showing: Kate Denosky's "A Period of Confinement"** @ FlynnSpace
- 1/10 FR **National Theatre Live: "Hamlet"** @ Palace 9 Cinema, So. Burlington
- 1/10 FR **Opening Reception: Kate Grady: "Passing Through: Portraits of Emerging Adults"** (1/10-1/12) @ Amy E. Tarrant Gallery
- 1/11 SAT **Dinner On Good** @ FlynnSpace
- 1/11 SAT **Exhibit: Kate Grady: "Passing Through: Portraits of Emerging Adults"** (through 4/12) @ Amy E. Tarrant Gallery
- 1/17 FR **Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt** @ Flynn MainStage
- 1/18 SAT **Burlington Chamber Orchestra @ McCarthy Arts Center at Saint Michael's College, Colchester**
- 1/22 WED **Winter Evening Concert @ Elroy Long Music Center at Saint Michael's College, Colchester**
- 1/24 FR **Broadway National Tour: "Memphis"** @ Flynn MainStage
- 1/25 SAT **Vermont Symphony Orchestra: "Masterworks"** @ Flynn MainStage
- 1/25 SUN **Vermont Youth Orchestra Winter Concert @ Flynn MainStage**
- 1/29 WED **Vermont Stage Company, "Other Desert Cities"** (1/29-2/14) @ FlynnSpace
- 1/31 FR **National Theatre Live's "The Habit of Art"** @ Palace 9 Cinema, So. Burlington
- 1/31 FR **Norfolk Voices @ UVM Rock Hall**

W. "HABIT OF ART" 1/31

"HABIT OF ART" 1/31

W. "HABIT OF ART" 1/31



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## Seven Days Arts Writers Revisit the Past Year

By ETHAN DE SOIFE, MARGOT HARRISON, Amy Hill, and PAMELA ROUSTON

**I**f you're like us, you probably look back at this time of year and wonder where the time has gone — how did 2013 slip by so quickly? We also think about some of the stories we wrote and wonder: What ever happened to it?

That's why we chose, more or less subjectively, to report the outcomes of those seven scenarios. ☺

### St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Last December, the fate of one of Vermont's few National Historic Landmarks seemed to hang in the balance. The *St. Johnsbury Athenaeum*, a beautiful 1871 building that houses the town library as well as a priceless collection of Hudson River School paintings and other artworks, attempted to stem its mortal financial hemorrhage by securely cutting back its library staff.

*As John Shipley reported in a series of articles in Seven Days*, eight full members were sacked and its vital to apply for four new positions. In protest, more than 100 librarians supporters surrounded the building in a protest hug. It still abounded, and lingered.

*Neither proven* was the Athenaeum's executive director at the time, he left the position voluntarily in a good and new leader the executive. *Some say* Powers says he didn't agree with the board's "aggressive" two-year time frame.



The hug protest in January

UPDATES

### Savoy Theater

In late September, *Lawrence Groff* of Montpelier's *Savoy Theater* sent out a press release announcing "dramatic cuts." Low 2013 ticket sales had forced the art house's owner to reduce his staff of 20 by seven.

It was the latest in a series of fabled saving appeals from the 38-year-old *Savoy*, but this time York said his priority was simply getting *theater* to survive. To that end, he did try an experiment called *Quad Pro Tuesday*: One day a week, people could attend the theater for \$4 an seat (pay whatever you want) whether you think the movie was worth it.

*update:* The *Savoy* still shows movies nightly, and York says ticket sales have improved since the summer — when some Saturday night shows drew only

a dozen viewers. Archival films such as *12 Years a Slave* have created "a little bit of an upsurge," he notes. "But it's still pretty lackluster" with those key Saturday night shows drawing "over more than 50 or 60 people" at a time. (The *Savoy's* upstairs screening room seats 124.)

Quad Pro Tuesday, meanwhile, has been "a very pleasant surprise," York says. The aim was to get more moviegoers to come out on a slow night, not to increase revenue, yet "We've averaged more than our basic price ticket" on Tuesdays, York says. When they set their own ticket price, "people will of themselves give more."

Why? York thinks the setup "attracts people out of the Pro's consumer and

I'm going to get a lot more of my world" mode. When he explains the system to newcomers, he often finds himself having conversations with them about the value of having this kind of art form available.

To keep those conversations going, York plans to introduce a free popcorn night starting in January, and then a series of free TED talk lunch hours. He's also designed a new program that would provide from the building, calling more attention to the theater.

Meanwhile, *Downstate Video* keeps on trading with limited hours, though York admits, "I would have predicted that it would have gone away long ago." The region, he notes, still has "big pockets of places" without broadband access.

When it comes to fresh tiling, York says, "I think people are a really kind of having glass is gone, and now they specifically focus on it as a big thing." We're trying to find different ways of engaging people besides begging for money.

The likely long-term solution, he says, is taking the *Savoy* away under the umbrella of the *stage off* house on Pine, which produces the annual *Downstate Video Festival*. "The movie part is for me to make myself whole and get compensated for what I've consumed in the theater."

For now and the far future, the shows go on.

— M.H.



THE NEXT TEAM REVEAL

## Lost Shul Mural

Earlier this year, **NARIN GOLDBERG** and **JEFF PRISMAN**, architects at Burlington's Olmsted Zedek Synagogue, spearheaded an effort to restore, preserve and relocate a one-of-a-kind artistic treasure: a 1920 synagogue mural painted on an interior wall of an Old North End apartment building.

Dubbed the "Lost Shul Mural," the extraordinary artwork is a synthesis not only of centuries-old traditions of European religious painting but of Burlington's own "Little 2 temples" community of the 19th century.

Goldberg and Prisman's devoted and enthusiastic efforts to preserve the mural and move it to Olmsted Zedek have attracted the interest of scholars, conservationists, religious figures and residents.

**UPDATE:** In September, the project had raised only about \$6000, at just a few last week, but that was beyond \$60,000. And, says Goldberg, "We have committed to more funding."

Born more satisfying for its founders, the Lost Shul Mural project has received several high-level endorsements, most prominently that of former Vermont governor Madeline M. Kucinich. When she was a child, Kucinich's family emigrated to America from her native Switzerland to escape the Holocaust. Kucinich's unshakable endorsement of the project has refocused media attention on it.



Reproduction of the original Lost Shul Mural.

Currently, the mural is undergoing professional cleaning and repairs, with conservationist **CONRAD SILVER** filling in cracks and restoring texture to the mural's paint. Silver is working from a 1966 photo documentation of the mural, which was funded by the daughters of the artist, Ben Zion Black. "We have

an extraordinary record of this mural," Goldberg says. "We do it, for family history, all of the information that we need for the restoration process."

The project's next task is to relocate the fading mural's art. When finally removed, the mural will be placed on display in a public space: the lobby of Olmsted

Zedek. "This is a piece that is going to be available to anyone who wishes to see it," says Goldberg. "Nothing like it exists in the world."

— E O S

**INFO**  
lostshulmural.org

## Creative Economy Survey

Vermont's **BUREAU OF THE CREATIVE ECONOMY** was launched in 2010 by legislative order. The idea was to put Vermont music in behind those sectors of the creative economy for which Vermont is not necessarily known: film and new media, advertising and marketing, and software and gaming.

"Good, working landscapes—they're critical, but not the entire story of who we are," says Vermont **COMMISSIONER OF CULTURE**, who was appointed OCE director this year. "We're also less infrastructure," not to mention film scores, video games, graphic design and the like. Vermont, declares Torres, should be known as a state that produces top-shelf mobile apps as much as cheese and maple syrup."

But this, as isn't actively going forward. "Working open the Vermont brand" as Torres put it. This also includes with growing those sectors. To determine how best to do so, OCE distributed an online survey to 1000 businesses

statewide last January. The 15-question survey was the brainchild of Torres' predecessor, **JOHN MCKENNA**, and the results came in a month before Torres did.

**UPDATE:** What did OCE learn, and how has it changed what Torres calls the state's original "brand mandate" from the legislature?

About 160 businesses and entrepreneurs responded. Thirty-four percent hadn't heard of OCE before seeing the survey—a big victory, perhaps, given the still fledgling status of this branch of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

The respondents were mostly tiny but established companies that employ between one and four people. Torres says the biggest surprise was "how many had been at one person for a long time and expected to grow to two in the next year. There was high optimism relative to their performance," he notes.

What these companies' owners said

they needed most was marketing work shops and help with new coding, both peer-to-peer and among business and "designers, engineers and the vendors." Startups sought the most help. And the biggest draw for startup owners was Vermont's quality of life.

The survey sample, though small, seems to have been accurate. **MARGARET DUBBLE**, president of the four-person video game company **HUMAN WHO GAMES** in Burlington, didn't know about the survey but, when asked about her business, she (like similar points she would like to see more marketing support, national recognition of events such as the Franciscan game developer conference, and more and more developer programs for startups.) "The first year is the hardest time," she says—and she recognizes that "Vermont and Burlington, especially, are pretty lucky to be a community." Dubble would also appreciate a school seed money and marketing dollars. The



Lucy's creative studio.





Paul Macher of Winooski Art Galleries in February

## Winooski Art Galleries

In February of this year, **BOB MACHER** opened Heron Dance Wild Nature Art Gallery in a long-empty space at 45 Main Street on the Winooski roundabout. The venue earned his own serene, nature-inspired paintings, prints, books and tapestries, and Macher planned to create outside *artworks* in the high-ceilinged space as well. Then, in July, he learned that his landlord was not renewing the lease. Frustrated and heartbroken, Macher opted to close out his nearly 20-year-old Heron Dance venture altogether and, as he told us, "probably go paddling in Canada."

**UPDATE:** We haven't talked with Macher since — though he has turned up in a series of news stories when he challenged a bogus traffic ticket and sued the town of Shelburne. For Winooski, though, things have been looking up lately. Not only has the

Ocean City benefited from a number of high-quality enterprises setting up shop — along with a handsome wine bar, a cafe, an Macher's former quarters — but this month another gallery arrived at the roundabout: **AND HENDERSON** and **USA CANADA**, both veterans of pop-up galleries, established **WINOOSKI ARTS** here, which features an eclectic assortment of fine art and creative home goods by some 38 Vermont artists. Let's hope it has popped up to stay.

It should be noted that other worthy venues joined the Vermont art scene this year, including the cartoon **HERNIMON** GALLERY, the **COMPASS MUSIC AND ARTS CENTER** in Brandon, and the **PUGMOUTH CENTER FOR ARTS AND EDUCATION** at **SHREVEPORT** (WASH.)

— P.R.

## INFO

[winooskiartists.com](http://winooskiartists.com)



"greedy under-resourced" OCE, as Thorne puts it, can't provide such funds, but it can and does connect businesses with entities that do. Those include seed events such as Peak Pitch, hosted annually by Fresh Trade Capital, which matches businesses with investors, and venture-capital funds such as the Vermont Seed Capital Fund.

Postscript: OCE will continue these efforts but focus on marketing, helping startups and recruiting and maintaining an appropriate workforce, according to Thorne. And it will keep listening: "The office plans to make this survey an annual affair. 'Look for it again,' urges Thorne. "It takes five minutes to complete."

— A.L.

## INFO

See full survey results at [local.vermont.gov](http://local.vermont.gov)

SEE PAGE 10 FOR



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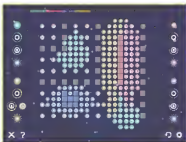
THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

## Pathogen

In November, Burlington video game developer **Bureau Wood Games** released its latest downloadable title, *Pathogen*, for iOS and PC. *Pathogen*, which evokes classic strategy board games such as *Go* and *Go*, is a challenging, addictive game in which players compete to “infect” the “cells” that own their the playing field. It’s simple enough to allow players to grasp its rules in a moment, yet complex enough to yield rich and varied gameplay.

The designers and programmers at Bureau Wood — principal **Bureau Designer Zach Nelson**, company president **marc taylor**, **2010**, developer **zach Nelson** and programmer **zach Nelson** — met and began working together at Champlain College’s game design program. After a previous title, *Lox*, proved unsuccessful, the team connected with the independent game publisher Gameloft.

Though *Pathogen* attracted positive attention in press reviews, the mood at Bureau Wood before its debut was one of excitement tempered by anxiety. The market for downloadable games was notoriously challenging.



**update:** The week immediately following *Pathogen*’s release was “pretty damn exciting,” says Dobbie, 33. Apple spotlighted the title in its “best new games” feature, on the App Store,

*Pathogen* was, for a time, ranked No. 1 on iOS. Based on data and No. 5 on the Strategy Games Dobbie estimates the game was downloaded about 200,000 times on the first day of release, total

downloads, at press time, were about 8000.

*Pathogen* received props from outlets that would consider elite influence in gaming circles. For instance, widely read tech website the Verge wrote “*Pathogen*’s simple yet addictive gameplay is augmented by a terrific presentation, with visuals that make it feel like you’re playing on a computer from a 1980s sci-fi film.”

Bureau Wood is by no means done with *Pathogen*. A free, stripped-down version of the game is available this month. In early 2014, the team will improve the online ranking and a rewards system and develop versions of the game for Android and Kindle.

As with any video game, *Pathogen*’s rankings eventually dropped, but as Dobbie puts it, the favorable reviews “felt like a real proving of quality. It was really validating for us.”

— E.S.S.

## INFO

pathogen.com

## Fine-Metals Studio

This story came together in only a couple of weeks. On November 27, we wrote a preview of an exhibit at the **New York State Museum** in Burlington that would feature jewelry by **fine metals** — long-time professor of the metals and jewelry making, at the 33 university of Vermont — and some of her former students. Those students, now successful jewelers themselves, include **John Stone**, **John Stone** and **John Stone**. The wedding show opened on December 11.

We also reported that, with 9 students’ retirement class exit, the UVM are department was planning to discontinue its fine-metals master-class. That decision was occasioned dismay and outrage among those who learned their craft in the program. It also presented a golden opportunity for **John Stone**, who was, and ignited some quick action.

**update:** BCA director **donna Kraft**, along with her staff and a full members, jumped at the opportunity to purchase UVM’s metal-working equipment, as we noted on the **John Stone** blog. **John Stone**, jewelry making is the only an extremely popular class offered by BCA, Kraft said, but has been limited by the lack of professional equipment. “This



felt like the perfect moment to respond to a community need,” she said.

BCA will now move into fundraising mode, Kraft noted, seeking \$2500 to purchase the equipment from UVM, and an estimated \$1000 to \$1500 to set up the studio at Memorial Auditorium. Eventually, Kraft envisions a new, much larger facility — perhaps in the city’s South End — where a BCA can bring all its education programs under one roof. The fine-metals studio will be named in honor of **Laurea Peters**.

— P.P.





## Dear Cecil,

As someone who's terrified to fly, I've always wondered why commercial liners don't come with emergency parachutes under the seats. In the event of fire or engine failure, I'd much rather take my chances on the jump than the crash landing. Few people survive water landings, and yet the seat doubles as a flotation device, so I don't buy the excuse that it's because people wouldn't survive with parachutes.

Terra Rneau



I realize this seems like a clever idea, Terra. And I admit the thought of sitting in a doomed aircraft hurtling towards destruction brings out the Walter Mitty in all of us. After all, a 1 percent chance of survival is better than no chance, right? Unfortunately, 1 percent is way too optimistic. To see why, ask yourself a few questions.

What are the odds of an accident happening when a parachute would do you any good? Analyzing 48 years of fatal aviation accidents, Boeing found 12 percent happened on the ground, 36 percent while the aircraft was taking off or on its initial climb, and 50 percent while the aircraft was in final descent or landing. So less than a third of the fatal accidents occurred at a point in the flight when a parachute use might have been feasible, and that's ignoring instant-death scenarios

such as TWA 800's midair explosion or crashing into the side of a mountain.

How do you expect the average passenger to get on a parachute properly? If you've done any parachute jumping, you know getting the rig on right is no simple matter, and we all know there are plenty of no-trainers who have enough trouble with the seat belt. And what about kids and babies, the elderly, the disabled, the just plain freaked-out? Now add in the chaos of everyone trying to stowage this simultaneously in a cramped cabin with little or no instruction under emergency conditions. Don't happening, babe.

If by now inside everybody got properly suited up, how would they get out of the plane? Due to the difference between inside and outside air pressure, a commercial jet's doors can't be opened at altitude. If

they could, due to the storoid pressure difference, everyone would be sucked out and quite likely smashed against the aircraft, pulled into the turbine, or incinerated by the exhaust. True, Dr. Cooper may have eluded those dangers (197) when he parachuted out of the Boeing 727 he'd hijacked, but he was the only remaining passenger on a pressurized, slow-moving aircraft with a rear-facing exit door, and he had plenty of time to prepare. That's a far cry from the emergency scenario we're contemplating.

You object. I still want my 900 percent! Very well, let's do a little cost-benefit analysis.

What's that miracle chance of survival going to cost? A typical Boeing 727-400 holds 150 passengers and a crew of maybe six. An Airway-grade 741 model parachute could probably be had for about \$600, but remember, we're dealing with

untested users here — we're going to need chairs equipped with an automatic activation device and possibly a reserve chute, which cost two grand and up. Factor in the cost of new seats or lockers to store the parachutes in, maintenance, and periodic replacement, and it's safe to say the cost per plane would be upwards of \$500,000.

Where would you put the chutes? As no trainers are parachuted into, commercial aircraft can barely accommodate a full load of passengers and their belongings as it is. Each parachute would at minimum take up as much space as a roller bag. Where would they all be kept? Under the seat means no luggage or stowage; overhead means no room for carry-ons.

What about the weight? A T-41 parachute weighs 32 pounds if you strip the reserve chute, but even so we'd be adding 5800 pounds to the aircraft. We could make this

up by choosing about 26 passengers and their luggage. The good news is, that would free up space for everyone else's chutes. The bad news is, ticket prices would likely increase at least 20 percent to cover lost revenue from the missing passengers.

In short, we're talking exorbitant cost with virtually no payoff. By comparison, flotation cushions and life vests for a water landing are the height of practicality. Granted, water landings aren't common, but they happen — witness the legendary 2009 ditching of US Airways flight 1549 in the Hudson River without fatalities by captain Chesley Sullenberger. Cushions and vests are cheap and easy to use, and the expectation, borne out by experience, is that the plane will be stationary and floating in the water when you exit.

To put things in perspective, your odds of being killed on a given airline flight are something like 1 in 20 million, whereas your odds of dying in a car accident per year are about 1 in 9200. Not to be heartless, but suck it up.

### INFO

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## Forty-Two Years

**O**n this unseasonably warm afternoon, the customers in the backseat of my taxi were impeccably dressed — not clo, but cloze. Ryang wore a black suit, cream-colored shirt and light purple tie fastened to a perfect Windsor knot, obviously by an experienced hand. His wife, Jung-soon — a thin, articulate, bright-eyed woman — had on a blue silk dress and white beret.

Ryang had undergone gallbladder surgery a week earlier at Fletcher Allen hospital. The procedure was "uncomplicated," which is how you want post-surgery to go. But back home in Mazon, New York, an infection set in and grew virulent, and he was transported back to Burlington via ambulance, with Jung-soon in tow. As I glanced at the couple in the rearview mirror, they appeared peaceful and relieved, evidence that Ryang was over the crisis and on the mend.

Jung-soon had shared all this with me on the ride up to the Boston Post. Finally, en route to their home, Ryang had said not a word, he just sat in repose with a beautiful smile, nodding slightly at different points in his wife's exposition. Now, on the Empire State side of the bridge, I felt like chatting some more, at least with Jung-soon, who seemed lively and glib.

"So you folks are from Korea, I'm guessing?" I asked.

"We are!" Jung-soon replied. "We both came to Boston as students in the late '60s. That's where we met, and we've now married 42 years."

"Well, congratulations to you," I said with a chuckle. "In today's world, that's an accomplishment. Especially if you still like each other."

That touch of reprieve might have been a touch chidey on my part, but it wasn't a conversation stopper, their goodness.

"My husband is a surgeon," Jung-soon continued. "He was a medical student when he was stationed with the Korean troops in the Vietnam War. He served as a medic."

"Oh, yeah?" I said. "I forgot that foreign troops sent troops to fight with the Americans during that war?"

"But Jung-soon didn't discriminate. If someone was injured, he helped them. It could be a soldier, a civilian, even a Viet Cong fighter. When he left to return home, the Vietnam government gave him a humanitarian award. We still have it on the wall in the office. I don't know what I say because it's in Vietnamese. I think, 'Bibey, something, a Vietnamese police officer told me.'"

As Jung-soon spoke, her wide-set, dark eyes shone with pride, the love and admiration for her husband filling the cab like a warm, gentle breeze. Though he remained

silent, I could tell Ryang's cheeks were rosy, and his eyes had an intense glow.

"Did you have any kids?" I only just got this MBA, and our daughter is a lawyer specializing in real estate development. They both went to Harvard."

"Well, it doesn't get better than that. Where you what they call a tiger mom?"

"Oh, I don't know," Jung-soon replied, she laughed softly, adding, "Well, maybe just a little bit."

Ryang suddenly cleared his throat, leaned forward in his seat and said, "Speaking of Harvard, let me tell you two stories, if I may." He then began, and his tone was that of a keynote speaker at a conference: direct, very efficient, though sweet and slow like the voice of a friendly giant.

"There was a man who became a millionaire in the 1800s and wanted to donate money to Harvard University. 10 million dollars, to erect a new building. Everything was in place until he requested that his name be engraved on the building. The college officials told him no, insisting that he was insufficiently distinguished for such an honor. So, the man traveled out to California, to what's now known as Silicon Valley, where an associate of his was attempting to launch a new college. The man donated his money to this effort instead of Harvard. His name was Leland Stanford."

"Well, that is something!" I said. "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth, right?"

"There's another story," he continued, ignoring me — not that I minded. If anything, his voice was growing wet more so, and I was hooked. "It also concerns gift-giving. When Napoleon Bonaparte was a struggling student in Paris, he would often stop at a local bistro stand for something to eat. Even when he had no money, the kindly French seller, a woman, would give him a free apple."

"Many years later he returned to that same shop. He was now the Emperor of France, but the fruit seller didn't recognize him — he had dressed modestly for the occasion. He asked her, 'Do you know who I am?' When she told him no, he said, 'You helped me years ago when I was a poor student.' He then handed her a bag of silver

coins, saying, 'Next time, you'll remember me,' and left the store. Astonished, the woman reached into the bag and pulled out a handful of coins. Each one featured the portrait of her customer, Napoleon Bonaparte."

Taken aback, Ryang leaned back in his seat, returning to his state of infinite contentment. I had no idea to what extent either of his stories was true, but who cares? I returned the conversation to a more volatile topic: "So how you also pursued a career, Jung-soon?"

"No, I studied art history in college, but left school to raise our children. But the last couple of years I've been helping my husband in the office. He's looking me up to assist with our outpatient surgery, and I really enjoy it. It's fun."

Jung-soon and I chatted for the entire drive across the North Country. Everything about her inimitable life I found interesting, but, more than that, I simply enjoyed her sparkling spirit. Just before we reached Mazon, Ryang surprised me by speaking for the second time.

"Do you know if Burlington has any observatories?" he asked.

"I'm not sure, but you'd imagine there would be at one of the colleges. Actually, now that I think of it, I do know of an observatory — at Saint Michael's College, just outside Burlington. I have no idea how powerful a telescope it contains, but I'm sure you can find out."

"That's Ryang's great passion in life," Jung-soon said, gazing at her husband. After 42 years, the woman still seems like a child. "Every chance he gets, he wanders outside to study the stars. Gosh, really, it's hard for me to keep him in the house!"

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RENE GARDNER/24

## DEVELOPMENT On Lakeview Terrace, Packard Loft Residents Turn Out to Be Good Neighbors

APR 24

Seventeen years ago, Steve Carlske and Jan Jensen posted what amounted to a neighborhood grape vine on the living room of their Lakeview Terrace home. Many of the 50 or so residents in attendance had longed for questions and answers about the Packard Loft project, which they'd seen at the northern end of the street perched on a bluff above Lake Champlain.

They complained about the scale of the building — 20,000 square feet on a two-thirds-acre site — and the developer heavily reduced the amount of parking. But when asked about the scale of the building — 20,000 square feet on a two-thirds-acre site — and the developer heavily reduced the amount of parking. But when asked about the scale of the building — 20,000 square feet on a two-thirds-acre site — and the developer heavily reduced the amount of parking.

Neighbors who appeared from around the neighborhood on the quiet street, as well as a whole lot of outside parking. But when asked about the scale of the building — 20,000 square feet on a two-thirds-acre site — and the developer heavily reduced the amount of parking.

But there seemed money to win over a few of the locals who had been trying for a while to block the conversion of an old industrial structure and warehouse into a new dwelling structure. If anything, those opponents had been further moved by the default on the structure, which the developer had promised would be largely preserved through "adaptive reuse."

**UPDATE** Packard Loft finally opened in June. "I feel positive about it now," Carlske said in an interview last week. "My main concern had been about its safety as well as the street, but I don't notice any great difference," he continued, however, that "the street is still a concern." The Harland Group has not made plans to lease out a retail space on North Avenue as a cafe, or because an restaurant, Carlske noted.

Tom Goldstein, a Lakeview Terrace homeowner who had blamed Packard Loft for a "crisis" in the street, said the three-story brick and white building with balconies and a porch "has become a neighborhood asset."

Packard Loft, in Goldstein's view, is one of several recent or proposed changes with potential negative impacts on Lakeview Terrace. "If you keep making away at a good thing," he says of the street that is, in

staining years of the lake, "eventually there won't be a good thing."

How are the new tenants? "They're a very polite and pleasant group of people," Carlske says.

Developer says he's pleased that many longtime residents appear to be taking an accommodating approach to the project and its occupants. "It's really heartening to see the neighborhood welcoming new people," he comments.

The building was fully leased a year prior to its opening, Developer notes, suggesting Packard Loft is helping meet the enormous demand for housing close to downtown. The ground-floor space will likely be filled early in the new year, he adds. The Harland Group is "in discussions," he says, with "a local business that will be a great addition to the neighborhood."

Packard Loft will remain a rental development for at least the next 10 years, Developer says. Financing arrangements for a project that includes five subunits require a long-term commitment to the leasing option, he explains.

— K.J.K.

## HEALTH

### Vermont's New Physician-Assisted Death Law May Have Had One Taker

MAY 15

Should doctors be allowed to prescribe life-ending drugs to terminally ill patients?

Political leaders needed that exact one-by-one question for more than a decade in Vermont, until February, when the state senate voted on it for the first time.

It results were highly conclusive. An almost evenly divided Senate ultimately voted in favor of legalizing the practice. But after the House approved a bill originally brought in May and Sen. Peter Golubovich (D-Winooski) forged a coalition with its backers, both bodies failed to pass it.

When Gov. Peter Shumlin signed the bill into law on May 20, Vermont became the fourth state to allow physicians to prescribe life-ending drugs.



**UPDATE** So how many Vermonters have made use of the new law? Between zero and one, depending on how you calculate it.

Physicians are legally required to report to the Department of Health that they've complied with regulations and written a "witness." They do not have to report whether a patient has used the drugs.

"The physician is required to report that the requirements of the law have been met," Department of Health spokesman Robert Stronwick says. According to Stronwick, just one doctor has done so since the law went into place.

On December 14, the  *Burlington Free Press* reported that a 67-year-old Middlebury man suffering from stomach cancer obtained a prescription. But according to his sister, he died of the disease on November 22 — the very day he had intended to pick up the drugs.

— PH

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

# State to Consider Licensing Massage Therapists, Redefining Prostitution

JUN 05

In May local police and FBI agents raided the Asian massage parlors — but made no

arrests — in an effort of a two-year investigation of suspected prostitution and human trafficking in Burlington. Soon after Seven Days decided to launch its own investigation, on 11 p.m. on week-end \$500 waiting for its on massage parlors in Chittenden County that were featured on Burgeon.com, an adult entertainment website that lists listed as a national go-to for "erotic" massage parlors. A site features a description and review of the woman working there: the spa not only perform massage much such services. A wedding ceremony Seven Days discovered is suspected forced or coerced prostitution, undocumented, all cash transactions with an exclusively male clientele. Abundant use of surveillance cameras, locked doors and buttons to screen customers, and windows covered with bars, blinds or curtains. A woman, all of whom were Chinese or Korean with limited English language skills, working seven days a week, from early morning until late at night, lived on the premises and worked far too long hours.

In three of the four establishments, the women required without being asked that I was there for sex.

**users:** Within 12 hours of the story's publication, one of the three businesses profiled — the one in Spaulding — closed its doors. A second, Seven Spas in Essex Junction, shut down 10 days later. None of the employees or owners could be located.

Despite the fact that all the sex establishments were known to police, we, we, had had prior conversations with the law, representatives from the Vermont State Police and the Vermont Bureau of Investigation. Seven Spas were slow to respond. Seven Spas was raided in 2004 for similar suspected activities, though as prosecutions were brought in that case because the business owner and workers all disappeared before the investigation could be completed.

A week after the Seven Days exposé, Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan contacted a meeting of top law enforcement officials and instructed them to hand deliver correspondence to about a dozen Chittenden County establishments, along with copies of the Seven Days article. The letters put the businesses and landlords "on notice" that they would

Shortly after Donovan's letters were sent, Williston police stopped two men who had just left Harmony Spa, both of whom admitted to having paid for sex there. The police cited the building's landlord, Thomas Bunka, 65, of Burlington, with allowing prohibited sexual acts on his property. In October, Bunka pleaded no contest to the charge. His plea deal called for making a \$300 donation to the Police

Project, a national anti-trafficking group, and cooperating with federal officials investigating alleged sex trafficking through the spa. U.S. Attorney Theodore C. also filed a federal action against Bunka's building, which is currently in litigation.

State lawmakers are also discussing ways of discouraging such criminal activities in the future. A Secretary of State Jim Condon, who oversees Vermont's Department of Professional Regulation, said he's willing to consider licensing of massage therapists but is not in a rush to "investigate transactions" to the problem in the form of burdensome or costly laws.

Senator Dick Sears (D-Burlington), who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, and he expects to take up a bill in 2014 to license massage therapists, but recognizes that it'll likely face strong industry opposition.

Sears and his committee may also discuss revising Vermont's prostitution law, which currently defines the crime as "the use, using or receiving of the body for sexual intercourse for hire" (Sears added). Under that definition, paying for or at sex or the proverbial "happy ending" also had jobs isn't technically prostitution. Sears suggested that his committee may recommend tougher penalties for "johns" who frequent such establishments but cautioned, "I'm not sure how many people we want to throw in jail for happy endings."

Currently, at least six Vermont "erotic" massage parlors are still listed active on the Burgeon.com website.

- K.P.



be held criminally liable for allowing prostitution or other criminal activities on their premises. After one such letter was delivered to the Burgeon.com in Essex Junction, which Seven Days had earlier visited on investigation, it closed "due to health concerns," according to property owner Kenna Macy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEVEN DAYS

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**LABOR**

# **After a Summer of Turmoil, State Employees Union Says It's Back on Track**

**June 19**

Over a year has ticked the reins of the Vermont State Employees Association in December 2001 executive director Mark Mitchell has been shaking things up in Montpelier. Online he has questioned his leadership style, who in his city has just what the union needs.

Last summer that shaking almost did for him.

On June 12 two VSEA staff attorneys brought a series of complaints about Mitchell to the awards board of trustees. Mitchell, they alleged, willfully violated federal labor law by refusing to pay the union's own employees time and a half for overtime work. Within hours, the board ruled 12-8 in his favor.

But Mitchell did his best to fight back. One of those board president John Rocco, so led the same nation "only" if he says later the board charged him with voting 10-3 for Mitchell Mitchell and put him on leave until it could complete its internal investigations.

**UPDATE:** The nonbinding investigation cleared Mitchell of wrongdoing. He went back to work — and the two staff attorneys who crossed him immediately resigned.

"It's been great to be back," Mitchell says, half a year after his temporary master "off course. It's personally gratifying for how things turned out."



Permanent State Employees rally

After a board election in September, Mitchell says, more of its members support him and the more aggressive "organizing model" he's sought to implement at the VSEA. That model is voters training national union members to fight for their own rights — and not just to rely on central staff to file grievances.

Says Mitchell, a couple of dozen "members" who were not on the side of due process were replaced in the elections.

According to Shelley M. Martin, who took over from Rocco as board president, "The board is now more forward. We're more focused on building an organizing

model and having members own a movement than [whether to leave] Mark be here or not be here."

Last fall VSEA negotiators signed off on four new contracts with state government, each of which is currently being ratified by members. Mitchell says he's particularly proud that the new contracts guarantee a living wage to those covered by them.

"Our union is healthy and working hard to keep our members in a good working environment so they can produce a good quality of work in the public," Martin says.

— J.H.

**GOVERNMENT**

# **Burlington Stands Firm on Yanking Liquor Licenses for Non-Taxpayers**

**July 10**

A Burlington City Council committee unveiled a novel method of tax collection earlier this year threatening to deny liquor licenses to three restaurants that had failed to pay in their sales tax payments to the city.

Over more controversially the licensing committee warned the owner of Bards Restaurant, that would need to turn in correct housing code violations if he has denied rental property as would result in the same penalty.

Councilman Mark Tracy, a Ward 2 Progressive, defended the committee's tough tactics. "Having a liquor license is a privilege," Tracy said earlier. "It's an opportunity to make significant amounts of profit, so you should be in good standing with the city in every aspect of your dealings with the city."

It is Rocco, founder of the Port Street public argument, told the committee he strongly objected to having it quit housing issues to what he said was the unrelated issue of housing-code compliance. The owners of the other three restaurants in a non-tax district challenge the same Rocco's decision and said they would seek out tax payment plans. Rocco's Bards, ONE Pepper Grill and Country Kirt, Del. collectively owed the city close to \$10,000.

Councilman also said Rocco's in Ward 6 Democrat, said at the time that he believed his parents had the authority to refuse to renew liquor licenses for reasons unrelated to alcohol service or consumption. He acknowledged, though, that the legal situation was not all easy case.

**UPDATE:** The licensing panel is moving ahead with its effort to tie liquor licenses to tax payment. A letter signed by Tracy, Tracy and the committee's third member, Ward 3 Democrat, Rep. Ayres, was sent last week to all 200 or so liquor-licensed establishments in the city.

It was that the committee will go to the full council to block a renewal of a license for any business that fails to hold on to its taxes. All Burlington restaurants and bars licensed to serve alcohol must apply for renewals before the end of March.

As of mid-December, city officials say that Country Kirt Del was up to date on its taxes. Rocco's Bards was making regular payments and ONE Pepper Grill remained delinquent.



Duplex home in Burlington, Vermont, property of Rocco's Bards

His said last week, however, that housing code violations will not be considered grounds for denying a liquor license. Doubts linger, he added, as to whether his panel is on second legal footing in proceeding with the plan to hold business hostage to tax payments.

"The safe route," said Rocco, an attorney, "would be to ask the legislature to broaden the scope of municipal violations that could be added with withholding liquor licenses." He plans to ask the city council to pass Montpelier to make such a change.

— K.J.K.



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Monkton Artist's Battle with Police Moves to Federal Court, with a Stop at UVM

JUL 25

Over the summer Seven Days reported that Monkton artist Rod MacIver was suing the town of Shelburne, a small Vermont town for what he described as acts of petty harassment from a bogus DMV stop.

Several months earlier, MacIver had been drinking south on Route 248 when Officer Jason Lawton (shelburne.com) for running a red light. At the time, MacIver's lawyer had denied the violation and asked—falsely, as it turned out—the cop had been “smoking pot or something.”

When MacIver never filed a complaint with the department, he negotiated for his attorney but wound up with no answer. Instead, Allen Park in Shelburne had taken from Lawton's cruiser care passed MacIver's motion.

In fact, it wasn't. When MacIver later secured a copy of his footage, it showed him smiling through the observation under a yellow light. The artist, and the photographer his traffic



Rod MacIver

violation overturned, and subsequently sued Shelburne's court system, requesting that the town answer its police complaint follow-up procedures and reimburse his legal fees.

**UPDATE:** The July hearing was postponed because none of the Shelburne witnesses showed up, but that didn't stop MacIver's story from transmuting a small corner of the Internet. In the following week, various news outlets including the Burlington Post and a Vermont morning TV program, picked it up. The YouTube video of his traffic stop has clocked more than 260,000 hits.

It wasn't just idle-minded residents who found MacIver's case compelling. This fall, the Vermont chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union took MacIver on as its client. Dropping the small claim in Chittenden Superior Court,

the ACLU brought his case to federal court, suing Officer Lawton for violating MacIver's First and Fourth Amendment rights.

MacIver welcomed the assistance, he says, because he couldn't find a lawyer to take his case pro bono. Also “small claims court wasn't the right venue, but I didn't feel capable of bringing my case to federal court myself.”

Depositions for the case are scheduled to take place next month. Lawton's attorney, Colin McNeil of McNeil, Lecky & Shobana, didn't respond to a request for comment.

MacIver's case aside, it wasn't a terrible outcome for the Shelburne 5-0 Competing in the 2013 National Law Enforcement Challenge, the department took silver in the category of municipal law-enforcement agencies with between 11 and 25 officers. The national award, which is presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, is a nod to the quality of traffic-safety initiatives and community involvement.

According to a press release from the Vermont Department of Public Safety, “the Shelburne Police Department has coordinated special high-visibility enforcement campaigns with all of the law-enforcement agencies in Chittenden County and elsewhere. Those efforts have helped to make the roadways in Chittenden County some of the safest in the state.”

MacIver is still driving on them. In fact, around 11 p.m. on December 6, University of Vermont police pulled MacIver over and issued him a traffic ticket.

The department was unsure any specifics about the incident, and MacIver has also declined to comment on the case — that is, the artist says, until he has a chance to watch the footage from the officer's cruiser cam.

— C.E.

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## EDUCATION

### Controversial Calendar Shelved, But Achievement Gap Remains Top Issue for New Ed Head

SEP  
11

Land fell a group of Champlain Valley superintendents proposed a new way to recognize the public school year. Dubbed "Calendar 2.0," the idea was to break up the academic calendar with occasional "two-week" "intercessions" that would allow students to catch up on academics, while giving them a chance to pursue extracurricular activities. Proponents argued that such intercessions would increase the achievement gap between students from low- and high-income families.

What went so far? Students would lose two weeks of summer vacation to make room for those intercessions in the 175-day academic calendar.

Many parents cried foul. Some formed a group, the Vermont State Our Summer Vacation and collected over 1000 letters and notices. They complained not just about the scarcity of summer, but also about the lack of data to support an experiment that would force students and teachers to adjust in August and leave parents to find childcare in winter. In fact, no definite study measured the value of Calendar 2.0, but the superintendents defended their proposal by pointing to the problem of summer regression "when all students forget 6 percent of the previous year's learning during the long vacation. The superintendent of public schools in October and November would be able to do a Calendar 2.0 blog in anticipation of an annual vote to establish the next year's academic calendar.

**UPDATE:** Some parents and students voiced support for Calendar 2.0 in those forums, but the majority took issue with the idea. At the end of October, the superintendents shelved the proposal for 2014-2015.

But the concept behind "intercessions" lives on. Although she hasn't taken a stand on Calendar 2.0 specifically, incoming Vermont Education Secretary Rebecca Holcombe says she's not opposed to re-defining the school day — at year — if it helps kids learn. In her view, the achievement gap is exacerbated by the lack of intellectually stimulating activities — such as summer camps — available outside the classroom to students from lower-income families.

"The opportunities and concerns that give rise to Calendar 2.0 are still out there, and I am sure, can be resolved."

Meanwhile, conversations will continue about how to best use time to support student learning," Holcombe wrote in an email response to questions from Steven Depa. "We have good research now that shows that a lot of the achievement gap can be explained by learning — or less learning — outside of the regular 175-day, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. school year."

To increase the "time children spend engaged and learning," one of the programs Holcombe intends to focus on is 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a federal initiative that funds after school or summer learning opportunities for low-income students.

What does that program have over Calendar 2.0? Clearly, data. Among the 15,000 students it served nationwide during the 2013-2012 academic year, math and language arts scores stayed the same or increased for more than 80 percent.

Expanded tests run the program in Vermont, where 115 schools — roughly a third — are participating.

"I think it is fair to say we are invested in what works, and right now, the place where we can get traction on this very important issue is around the work Expanded is doing," says Holcombe. "His work directly increases the time children spend engaged and learning."

— C. E.



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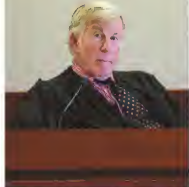
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Judge Michael Kuperman



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Supreme Court Decides Case of One Would-Be Murderer, Mulls Second Case

NOV 20

The Vermont Supreme Court recently heard an appeal from Norman Stevens, a Burlington man who was the first defendant in state history to be sentenced to life in prison without parole for a crime other than murder.

Stevens, 50, was convicted of attempted murder for beating his ex-girlfriend with a hammer in 1999 and dragging her to a room where he had stored cigars and powder. He planned to set it on fire with her trapped inside and was stopped only when neighbors rushed outside and saved her.

Comparing him to the 1971 terrorist Judge Michael Kuperman sentenced Stevens to life in prison without parole. Stevens appeared to the state Supreme Court, arguing that his sentence was disproportionate to his crime.

While Stevens' appeal was pending, a second defendant, Edward Johnson of Green, was also sentenced to life without parole for attempted murder, again by Kuperman. Johnson also appealed his conviction.

**vermont.** Vermont's Supreme Court justices continue to mull Stevens' appeal of his life sentence, but they have decided Johnson's case. In a 5-0 decision, the justices upheld his conviction.

The appeal centered on several claims of error during his trial, including an assertion that he should not have been found guilty because, at the scene, the victim could not identify him as the attacker.

"These issues were already resolved by the jury in favor of the state," Chief Justice Paul Reiber wrote in the opinion. "We are not triers of fact, and we will not substitute our judgment for that of the jury." Stevens remains in a Kentucky prison, where Vermont sends most long-term inmates. Johnson is being housed in the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield.

— H B

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# Name Game 2013

What's in a name? More appropriate, inappropriate and downright illegal behavior

BY KEN POKRIS

It's been another banner year for wordsmiths (and poets) such as myself who keep a vigilant eye out for aptonyms — that is, names that align with their professional professions, pursuits or extracurricular activities. Listing them in our column of your issue has been a Seven Days tradition since 2007.

Admittedly, few years can measure up to 2013. That was the year when **Anthony Weiner**, a previously respected Democratic congressman from New York City's ninth congressional district, actual ally of his crack in a woman who served his wife. He emerged again in 2013 in another failed bid to become New York City's mayor, proving once again that a Weiner is a gift that keeps on giving — especially to political cartoonists and late night comedians.

Among the aptonyms we discovered this year were **Jeff Drew**, a New Mexico-based freelance illustrator who's produced work for Seven Days (including the cover of this issue) and **Randall Drew** (no relation), a cartoonist from White River Junction. I also found **John Woolley**, producer of "Shoun the Thorp," a children's animated education series from the UK, and **Greg Beets**, a music reviewer for the *Austin Chronicle*. (Both aptonyms, spelling is less important than pronunciation.)

Some aptonyms — in names that aren't only owing to their own circumstances — made the list, as well. They include **Alexandra Parks**, a New Haven woman who, on March 18, was allegedly spotted by a Vermont State Police sergeant nodding off behind the wheel while her vehicle was still rolling. Parks was later cited for driving under the influence of drugs, felony possession of controlled substances and reckless endangerment, as her child was in the backseat and her car was rolling toward a moving train.

In the same town, in April, a Vermont trooper stopped **Frank Liberty** for driving 81 mph in a posted 50 mph area on Route 116 in Burkeville. That day, Liberty was cited for speeding and reckless driving and lost a cash citation. And, on October 18, **Georg Cowie** drove into a herd of cows on Mount Hope, VT.

In years past, I've also noted place names that we don't aptonymize but seem appropriate given the circumstances, such as the town of **Winooski, VT**, where a \$212 million winning Powerball ticket was purchased. This year's winner place name award goes to the **Hardlock Ridge Office Center**, which is home to the National Shooting Sports Foundation in Newmarket, Conn. You can make this stuff up.

Here are the rest of the aptonyms we compiled in 2013:

**Carl Colner**, a 37-year-old Island, Pa.-born man who was sentenced to 180 months in prison for conspiracy to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine.

**Frederick Lakfield**, teacher, administrator, writer and director of the Green Mountains David Ogden and Training and "Institute of Gains."

**Alden Booth**, owner of the People's Pub and grill in Greenfield, Mass.



**Sam Church**, minister at the Congregational Church of Christ in East Brattleboro.

**Bill Papp**, Drug Policy Alliance media connection a press release titled "Poll: Three Out of Four Washington, D.C. Voters Want to Repeal Colonial Penalties for Marijuana Possession Under District Law."

**Angelo Dwyer**, author of the book *From Beer Garden*.

**Tim Comma**, owner of the Vermont Organics Throat shop in Burlington and South Burlington (Comma means "shout" in Spanish).

**Andy Fish**, lake evaluation and training specialist at the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's wastewater management division.

**Rick Drisc**, U.S. bankruptcy court judge in the southern district of New York.

**Beth Champagne**, Vermont battle bull proponent.

**Bryn Dekker**, Vermont environmental analyst.

**Pete Cook**, Burlington teen bar and railway advocate.

**Tim Hammer**, 20-year-old student at the U.S. University of Vermont who was arrested for possession of ecstasy, marijuana and LSD. ("Tim" is a street name for LSD.)

**Trent Becker**, publisher of *Recovery Compass*, a magazine about substance abuse recovery on college campuses.

**Mike Bremer**, FBI agent who headed Operation Stormy Nights, an undercover sting operation to expose teenage girls being prostituted at beach stops. ☹

# Apocalypse Then

Book review: Nostalgia: A Novel, Dennis McFarland

BY MARGOT HARRISON

A post-traumatic stress disorder is a timeless side effect of war or a 21st-century buzzword? Readers may find themselves asking that question as they delve into *Nostalgia*, the powerful new novel from Southwestern author Dennis McFarland.

Michael Gladsheff came down on the latter side of the debate in 2004. New Yorker critic called "Getting Over It" where he contrasted a post-World War II novel in which a veteran simply "gets over" his trauma with a post-Vietnam novel in which a veteran is haunted by his past. "Somewhere in the intervening decades our understanding of what it means to experience a traumatic event has changed," Gladsheff concluded.

Well, maybe. But, as personal accounts of war and its aftermath have been found in, chronicled near or then a little reluctant to subject veterans to "get over it" and move on. (A July 2013 *New Yorker* story by David J. Morris revealed the PTSD controversy with more evidence and nuance than did Gladsheff's piece.) Moreover, other scholars

argue that PTSD has its roots from the beginning of time under all circumstances, some times are specified more. In the 19th and 20th centuries, for instance, soldiers who experienced a traumatic war were often described as "suffering from nostalgia."

That historical footnote is the seed of *Nostalgia*. McFarland tells the story of a wounded Hayes, a 39-year-old Civil War private and war-hound pitcher who arrives at an army hospital with a striking condition. While everyone in the novel who witnesses Hayes' symptoms explains their bit differently, modern readers will immediately identify them as PTSD.

"Battled during Civil War soldier with PTSD" would serve as a perfect pitch for an Oscar®-bait novel. But not a single passage in *Nostalgia* feels gimmicky, generic or opportunistic. On the contrary, McFarland—author of previous acclaimed novels—has immersed himself so thoroughly in the language, physical details and ideas of Hayes' world that this fiction unfolds up and over the reader. By the end, it's hard not to see Hayes as a living outsider to Gladsheff's thesis, even though he never existed.

The novel opens in a highly unsettling state of median care. Haunted from childhood wounds, "half in body and mind" young Hayes has been abandoned in the Virginia woods by his regiment. We won't discover where or how

he was wounded, or why he was abandoned, for many pages, because Hayes' troubled mind prefers to focus on memories that provide his first and only combat experience. In particular, he dwells on "the ideal script of peace within himself—reflections of a regimental baseball game."

For its first 30 pages, *Nostalgia* alternates between present tense descriptions of Hayes' woodland camp in the forest—primarily remembered with fragmentary memories, hallucinations and dreams—and a standard flashback to his life when it made sense to him.

We learn that he was recently orphaned, that he pitched for a college ball club, and that he enlisted in the Union Army in part because he'd begun having "the wrong kind of dreams" about his older brother and beloved companion, Frank. Frank is a guiding presence in the flashback, while Hayes' own mind remains a confusing place to be.

Some readers may find the extended opening daunting, especially with disordered information. But McFarland's masterful prose pulls us through the chaos and into the novel's second chapter in which Hayes awakens in Washington, D.C. As a pitch, it could have been avoided by all parties, Walt Whitman.

In this part of the Civil War saga, commentators have been hearing a lot about the great American poet's work among wounded soldiers. Who better than a slightly fictionalized Whitman to watch and wait—as patient and empathetic, with his "material evidence"—as Hayes finally begins to confront the specter of what happened to him on the battlefield?

Poetically sound but unable to speak or write his story Hayes appears to many observers like a mere "indigenous" trying to delay his return to the front. A doctor diagnoses him with "nostalgia," which usually means the "a" word is key to the cure. Only Walt (as Hayes knows the poet) argues that the young soldier be allowed to heal in his own time and way.

When this point is made, *Nostalgia's* reader is on one footing. While Hayes continues to struggle with paranoia and a sense of urgency, the hospital staff arrive and Whitman's guiding presence from a strong central thread. And when at last we learn what happened to Hayes during those days on Walt's Battle of the Wilderness, McFarland summons all the powers of his acute eye and imagination—with stunning results.

In the book's acknowledgment, the author notes that those three days are believed to have seen nearly 32,000 casualties. How can one imagine such an inferno, or how it feels to survive it? But the fact is that the novel's scenes sequence holds both beauty and horror. It craves the distance between Hayes and the reader, plunging us into a surreal world where nothing is less than real.

To survive the chaos of engagement, we read, Hayes adopts "the purest mechanism of the war—arms." On its battlefield, describes his transformation into another remarkable passage.

Something deep within him had gone numb...and then, for a moment or two, he lost touch with all the sensations, small and large, that made him less than he is himself. It was a kind of blindness, for now, the result of deliberate noise but not entirely without character: nothing in the world mattered, nothing in life possessed any value, and all human endeavor was so final and momentary as the scurrying of wild pigs in the forest.

In a world where soldiers can be cheerfully grinning companions one instant and unrecognizable corpses the next, it's no wonder that Hayes loses his grasp of language, logic and the status we tell ourselves about why things matter. "Getting over it" isn't an option for him. For ideal healing to take off, it may be.

The passage above is indicative of McFarland's prose in general. It has the ferocity and manner of cadence we associate with the 19th century but lacks the baroque periodic Shakespearean flourish with which many modern writers vibrate the period. The story alone calls for such attention to craft and the dialogue is terse and natural—with a suspension made for Whitman's plotless plot digressions. It's the poet who comes closest to giving the novel a "message," also knowns there is to it or tells them, "Your wounds are not visible like other wounds...Which isn't quite the same thing as not real."

*Nostalgia* is a new opening eye. Hayes' story is a deeply personal, even idiosyncratic one, and is too grand that night long. The novel may be so, but in understanding the "invisible wounds" of current conflicts by transposing their symptoms to that or long past, but McFarland has studiously refrained from imposing a modern, their approach sensibility on Hayes'. Hayes' untold tragic past and Whitman's strident belief in human's collective appeal to our empathy regardless of our status or the current conventional wisdom about trauma. By the novel's end, the young soldier has taken his place among the great characters of historical fiction: those who compel us to believe in their resonance, (and their reality) ☐

## INFO

*Nostalgia*, A Novel by Dennis McFarland (Panthron Books 2012) page 225 pp





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# Speaking in Tongues

English-language learners and local elders team up to tell stories

BY CHARLES EICHNER

**A**t first glance, Sheila Carpenter and Alexis Wei Mbeque wouldn't appear to have a lot in common. Carpenter, a white-haired, 75-year-old from Rutland, used to work as a dishwasher and hasn't traveled much outside Vermont. Mbeque, 32, was born almost 600 miles away in Douala, Cameroon. After earning a bachelor's degree in law and working for his family's business, Mbeque moved to Vermont via Brooklyn and Wisconsin. But the two do share at least one important trait.

"We both have hearing problems," Mbeque explains of his bond with Carpenter, a resident at Green Mountain Nursing Home in Colchester.

Carpenter's hearing declined early in life, and she now wears an aid. As for Mbeque, about 10 years ago he came down with a severe cold and had to blow his nose vigorously. One of those times he felt a sharp pain in his right ear. He had captured an earplug. Doctors at Camson weren't able to restore Mbeque's hearing, so he set out for the U.S. with two goals: to secure a good hearing aid and to attend an American college.

While he prepares to tackle the latter, Mbeque has been studying English. He met his girlfriend while getting his certificate of nursing assistance in Middlesex, Wis. When she accepted a halfway teaching assistant position at the University of Vermont last year, the two moved to Colchester, where his 16-month-old daughter now Mbeque works in a Shelburne nursing home.

This fall, Mbeque was enrolled in the advanced English class at Vermont Adult Learning, a nonprofit organization that provides free classes in a range of subject areas. Many of the center's language students come from the state's immigrant and refugee populations. For a final project, Mbeque's instructor, Loren Gancols, had the students produce a book of stories about the lives of residents at Green Mountain Nursing Home.

Both VML's language classrooms — which occupy a building owned and made available by Saint Michael's College — and the senior facility sit on the sprawling grounds of Fort Ethan Allen. On the morning Mbeque first trilled over to meet



Sheila Carpenter and  
Alexis Wei Mbeque

CULTURE

Carpenter, the older woman was reserved. Eventually, though, she opened up about her family. Her husband passed away from cancer, she revealed. She has five grown children and now enjoys painting and watching films.

For Mbeque, interviewing Carpenter has been a confidence booster. With his Cameroonian accent, he says, it can be difficult to make himself understood, especially by older Americans. Nevertheless, he and Carpenter were able to communicate.

The VML project was more than just a language exercise, explains Gancols. Although the instructor had been reading over the idea for a while, he was able to implement it only this fall, when a grant from the Vermont Agency of Education allowed him to purchase a set of audio recorders. Over three November evenings, his students went to the nursing home to chat with residents in a well-lit activity room.

"Many of the students ask me, 'How can I practice speaking English with native speakers?' and I also know that many people, as they get older, don't speak to people as much," explains Gancols. "My goal was to bring the two



Loren Gancols and  
Alexis Wei Mbeque

communities together, so I thought, 'Why not have them establish a relationship with the seniors, and have them get to know them and write their life story?' It's integrating all their skills and also being of service to others."

The students came from various African, Asian and European countries. While some moved to Vermont to be with family members, others came for educational purposes.

Many of the interviews were conducted by Mbemue and Corporante. The students broadcast their audio recordings like journalists and beat down to engage the residents, many in wheelchairs.

Like Mbemue, Adam Matela, a 40-year-old native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, was paired with a widow for his project. Mary Woodward, a self-spoken woman, has spent most of her life in northern Vermont, though she emigrated to Florida several times. Many years of her life were devoted to raising eight children, she told her mobile biographer. She never left the country, let alone went anywhere near the DRC.

Before he boarded a plane to the U.S. with his children one year ago, Matela had never needed to use English, like with a refugee, had left two years earlier, seeking asylum in Vermont because of her persecution with the country's opposition party. On the journey to reunite with her, Matela says, he would have missed a connecting flight if he hadn't lacked out by finding someone who could direct him to the terminal in French.

"There's many things you can't do if you can't hear English," says Matela, who worked as a lawyer in the DRC. "People are speaking and you can't understand them, and sometimes you just like a crazy man! You want to ask them something, and you can't!"

As the elders and English-language learners swapped stories, passing residents posed in at their exchanges. According to the nursing home's activities director, Doree McDowell, who helped with the project, the building is a gold mine of tales. One former resident, who has passed away, used to work for Elton John, she says. Others spoke of a ghost named Truancy who wanders around the nursing home and thought to be a doctor who worked in the building when it was an army hospital.

In each a started setting, the students proved themselves as able reporters. Born in Boston but raised in Spain and Morocco, native Arabic and Spanish speaker Adam Marshall Hantua learned that Lydia Elizabeth Lusselle had been the first woman to fly in a plane out of Buffalo, NY. Another DRC

student, Donald Rutada, wants to attend an American university but now holds a quality-control job at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. He discovered that Green Mountain resident Winona Mitchell has a dog named Jack and a cat named Mitch (he was particularly smitten to find out routine that Americans consider their pets part of the family).

Such were the tidbits that made it into the class' book, *Senior Stories From the Green Mountain Nursing Home*. Just 20 pages long and held together with plastic binding, it's no *Moby-Dick*. But the book does contain the bio of each person involved in the project, along with photos and a teaching forward by Glasco.

The son of an Italian immigrant and formerly a high school French teacher, Glasco started working at VAL 20 years ago after getting a master's degree in teaching English as a second language at St. Mike's. The project was inspired by trips he took to see his mother in a Russian nursing home, he says.

Just as important as the final product was the process at which the students presented their book to the residents. In early December, all of them gathered to read in the nursing home's activity center. This time there were coffee and cookies, however, and a projector screen flanked images from the project. Barber Strassman crooned through the room's sound system.

After presenting the books, each student and a few words *Jackie Park*, who came to the U.S. a year ago for her husband's job with IBM, led the charge. She'd enrolled in the class to better connect herself in English, she said. She talked about how the resident she'd interviewed, Lena Ritzosara, is a kind woman who likes to go shopping with her cows.

Ritzosara, a former architect from Rome and early the most outgoing resident in the room, demanded that Park come while her hand at the end of the presentation. "We're glad to have you!" she declared joyfully.

Soon Matela spoke his part: "I was a lawyer in my home country and I used to speak before many people. But this is the first time I'm speaking English before many people," he explained to his 20 or so listeners.

"It was a good interview because I learned something about Mary" Matela continued, "and she learned something about me!" ☺



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## Midnight Madness

A First Night guide to ringing in 2014

BY COURTNEY COPE

**H**ats off to you, 2013. With the calendar coming to a close and 2014 on the horizon, it's time to end the year on a high note. Serving the community for the design industry, post-1989 Maria Wille once named, "and now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been." Taking this light-hearted approach, *SharePoint* and *St. Johnsbury's Fine Arts Collaborations* offer for searching something that bring top notch talent to residents of all ages.

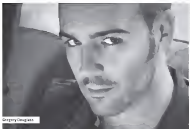
Buy a hotdog or a sandwich — they're your "lickers" to munch, toast, dance and fire words. Badfinger's *Badfinger* begins at noon while *It's a Licker Thing* at 4 p.m.

This year's First Night Burlington celebration has the advantage, making it the largest running event of its kind in the world. With this comes a lineup of more than 100 performers and activities at 18 different venues. Performers including All Stars, Rapin Vets and Kai Wright & the Indefatigable Steel and jazz ensembles such as Jon Dismore, Burlington Brass and Circus Sinfonia. Also new this year is the Africa in Vermont program, featuring AAVE. Workshops and the 18 aroundtown Women's Dance Company. Last but certainly not least, fireworks explode over Lake Champlain at 8 p.m. and midnight.

In the Warwickshire kingdom, St. John's church's historic downstairs comes alive with a multitude of movement and both new and returning acts. The festivities include the Wield Summer Horn Band and five creative Dancing Queens. Kildesdon puts the party in the Family Fun Zone and Kids' Rock! All Star Musical Service. At 8.30 p.m., folk head to the St. John's Academy field where parking lot to release lighted lanterns into the winter sky, then on return at midnight there fireworks display.

See *in* *detail* for highlights of New Year's Eve celebrations in other local towns, where candles, parties and tasty fare result.

Parry, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675



Geometric Optics

## Piano Man

**A**s a teenager, Gregory Douglas learned the piano by ear. Upon graduating from high school, he went on to play and sing in a band, but he was not strong, so they encouraged him to enroll in college and pursue his passion. These days, the internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter has eight albums under his belt. Knowledge blending folk, pop and rock, the Hyde Park native has gathered companions to do "it." Buckley and shared the stage with The Roots, Ice Cube and India.Arie, among others.

### Grassroots Dialogue

5-5 4D p.m. and T1 4D p.m. at FlyersSource

If you like this, try **Coolly Macaronis**

South Congregational Church, 7 and 9 p.m. at First Night St. Johnsbury

## Family Ties

**B**y then, just heads and handaxes — the tree makes for a solid sense of foundation. Back in the case for the Dulcanto Brothers: After years apart, the siblings recently announced when they, the younger of the two, moved to Vermont and founded Zink, an established local performer. The rest, as they say, is history. Having turned heads with their self-titled 1997, the young talent believe a new mix of folk and American featuring C. eithers harmonies and *Synge* and acoustic guitar.

\* a Defiant Brothers co.

6-6:40 p.m. at FlipSource

If you like this, try *Allen Greenleaf & the Doctor*

St. Johnsbury House, 9 and 10 a.m. at First Night St. Johnsbury

## Decked Out

**G**ive Christopher McIlrath say and he'll make explicit synergies, give him Vermont landscapes and he'll produce stunning photographs. A dash of craft? The Woodford resident turns acts and apaloo into awe-inspiring feats of magic. Drawing on more than 30 years of experience, McIlrath forges busy projects in favor of improvisation and traditional sleight of hand. The result? An evening of illusion on that keeps audience members on their toes.

Charles Joseph van Marrewijk

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## BURLINGTON

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## ST. JOHNSBURY

Tuesday, December 11, 4 p.m. to midnight at various downtown locations. \$10-20 suggested. Info: 745-2600. [www.stjohnsbury.com](http://www.stjohnsbury.com)

## Dynamic Duo

**B**ongo, guitar, fiddle and vocal harmonies, oh my! Denis and Susan Roberson weave these elements into an interpretation of mountain music rooted in Appalachian traditions. Known for their captivating live shows, the pair delivers light-hearted and poignant songs alike with technical sophistication and a playful stage presence. Currently based in Asheville, NC, the couple travels to northern Vermont — where Denis once lived in an off-the-grid homestead — with originals and time-tested tunes.

### Denis & Susan Roberson

8 and 9 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church

### If you like this, try: Good Old Wagon

First Congregational Church, 7:30-9:45 p.m. at First Night Burlington

## Vaudevillians

N

ormally, having one's stomach in Vermont in December is not a good idea. But for New members of the Hypnotic Beliefdance Circus, the opposite is true. Led by B.K. Nery and her senior sidekick Jango the Dark Clown, this carnival of antebellum performance includes dancers, jugglers and prestidigitators who charm an all-ages crowd. This year, the eclectic crew welcomes Mobile Eastern-dance troupe the Rag-rats as special guests.

### Hypnotic Beliefdance Circus

6 and 7 p.m. at Puffer Hall, St. Johnsbury Academy

### If you like this, try: Circus Serenico

Memorial Auditorium, 12 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. at First Night Burlington

## Multigener Medley

T

ellies Medley brings everything but the powerful kitchen sink to the stage. Embracing a variety of ancient rhythms, the five-member ensemble performs original music alongside traditional American, Cuban, reggae, rock, funk and blues. This versatile approach to songwriting traces, ranging from the 1948 folk song "Yellow the Drinking Gourd" to selections made popular by Josselyn and Frank Williams. Led by guitarist Bobby Parlow-Balbo, the Northeast Kingdom band gets folks dancing with moving renditions.

### Tellies Medley

10 and 11 p.m. at the VW Hall

### If you like this, try: Passacumb

Unitarian Universalist Church, 8 and 9 p.m. at First Night Burlington

## MORE OPTIONS FOR A MEMORABLE NEW YEAR'S EVE

### Slopeside

**New Year's Eve Turnaround Parties and Treats**, 5 p.m. at Mountain Valley Resort.

Info: 802-591-8855, [www.mountainvalley.com](http://www.mountainvalley.com)

**New Year's Eve Party & fireworks**

5 p.m. Turn at Jay Peak Resort, Reggae

Guitarist & Treats, 5:30-10 p.m. 802-521

[www.jaypeak.com](http://www.jaypeak.com)

**Fireworks and Turnaround Parties**, 5 p.m.

at Lincoln Park, Superlunch Resort, in

Warren. Call for info: 802-439-4421

[www.lincolnpark.com](http://www.lincolnpark.com)

### Live Entertainment

**CBGB Last Night Dance Party**, 10 p.m.-1

1 p.m. at 10-40 Lake Aqueduct and Science

Center in Burlington. \$30-40 info:

854-1045, [www.cbgb.com](http://www.cbgb.com)

**Dave Koller's New Year's Eve**

**Extravaganza**, 9 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at Montpelier

Big Hall. Advance sale: \$10. Info: 252-2737

[www.cbgb.com](http://www.cbgb.com)

**Alibi's New Year's Eve**, 8 p.m. at Town

Hall Theater in Middlebury. \$10. Info:

362-3232, [www.alibi.com](http://www.alibi.com)

### Food & Drink

**1040 Ice Ball**, 7 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at 1040 Lake

Aqueduct and Science Center in Burlington.

Info: 854-1045, [www.cbgb.com](http://www.cbgb.com)

**New Year's Eve Club Crawl**, 9:30-1:30 p.m. at

Lugden Street in Montpelier. Info:

252-2737, [www.cbgb.com](http://www.cbgb.com)

**New Year's Eve Dinner & Theater**, 5:30-10

p.m. at Montpelier. Info: 854-1045, [www.cbgb.com](http://www.cbgb.com)

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# Supper Superlatives 2013

Seven Days' food team considers the best things that happened to Vermont food this year

BY CORIN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

**Y**our devoted Seven Days food writers can barely leave the house without being asked variations on these questions: "What's new and good?" "What's your favorite restaurant?" and "What are should I be eating?"

Those are the questions of amateurs. Those of us who eat for a living or are hired to ask the questions to be more specific. In Vermont, we have the happy problem of too many delights to choose from.

But as a New Year's gift to you, curious readers, we'll get more specific about our own choices with a list of superlatives from 2013. Some, plenty of us writers from years past are still in heavy rotation, but this list is devoted to the new ones that have earned our love. Don't say "Auld Lang Syne" without having tried a handful—or a mouthful.

## Best New Chef

**AL:** The smoked pork sandwich fit on the Southern Smoke food truck was as love at first bite. The smoked lamb and quinoa burrito and ever-changing fish tacos converted our editors for chef Brian Stefan a convinity. But it wasn't until he served popovers up at Artistic Kitchen Coffee that the Seven Days staff began showing him real chops. Whether weekly burrito nights are street food prepared with a fine dining chef's skill, I can't wait to see what his creative next

**CH:** If I'd known I was going to find some of the most memorable fare of the year outside a fancy hoteling room, I would have allowed more time to gorge. I first tasted chef Erik Larson's food after speaking at a party in Morrisville's Lost Nation Brewing. Their menu included smelt and cheese-spiked gnocchi so tender they melted on my tongue, a scudappery gorgeous sandwich of smelt oil, feta with eggplant in Brie, a Mountain Bread, and a charcuterie board that evoked a still life from the Dutch golden age, with buttered bread squares, pickled cauliflower, peppers and pickled eggs. Larson's housemade pork nitelo was as succulent, it tasted as if it were laced with honey (it wasn't). 2013 was not a year for new chefs splashing onto the scene—it was more about quiet, unexpected experiences like this one. Was it me that I don't get up to Morrisville as often as I would like.



Southern Smoke



Step and Wendy Espinoza of Southern Smoke



Photo

## Best Menu Reinvention

**AL:** Before they eat, the forty apostles for My Side Away Inn & Restaurant was barely as my radar. But general manager Bruce Hyde Jr. and chef Rick Mero have made the inn's menu into a local food destination. When I visited in September, I dined for the Parmesan-flavored risotto to eat in a smoky oil tomato sauce and the buttery duck Roast. Looking at the latest menu, I know I'll have to return for the braised, onion-grilled cheese with more cow butter, porklet, wraps and pie.

## Best New Cuisine

**AL:** Given Burlington's growing African population, it was only a matter of time before the city got a Senegalese restaurant. That's just what it is as good as African it is. Stone & Deck, if it's former city residents who own things, there are not one but two a window of the soft flavored. Protein change every day, but whether it's goat stew, pork chicken, you're guaranteed big, beautiful flavors.

## Best Mobile or Pop-Up Eatery

**AL:** The food truck and truck topped all the way Burlington this year, finally taking a regular space at the University of Vermont. I announced on my Alice Rins Roadbook page that the Vermont food truck had come of age in July after I tried its "bale dish" of tomatoes, Indian spiced cauliflower, baked lamb and cucumber raita. Now, with a Friday pop-up indoors at Artistic Kitchen Collective in Burlington, Windward chef Luke Stone serves up some of the state's most creative, sophisticated fare.

## Biggest Trend

**AL:** No question, there was the Year of the Bagel. It started with the opening of the stylish Bagel Place in South Burlington, with its perfectly formed and within. Myra's Bagel Bakery in Burlington expanded



More food after the classics section PAGE 41



in offerings with eastern-European, Jewish-influenced dishes such as smoked-brisket sandwiches, not to mention a veritable warm ocean of other foods prepared on-site, including oshes, doughnuts and hummus. Finally, the New York-style bagel came to Burlington with the opening of Feldman's Bagels, which strikes even the fussiest eaters with its bagels and cream-kissed soup.

**CH:** Wise bars have been old hat in other parts of the country for a while, but Burlington really caught the wave this year. It began when L'Ermite's Kevin and Katie Givney opened their speakeasy, *August Via* (originally called *Uva*) last spring inside their College Street digs. Then, in the fall, came a duo of new wine bungalows: the cozy, sophisticated *Wino Bungalow*—an anteroom for Burlington's Terrific Tuesday had a wonderful bar in its own right—and the very, modern *oink* in Winozaki.

## Best Trend

**AL:** The most-and-three concept first reared its delicious head last year when Misery Loves Co. in Winozaki debuted meals such as fried chicken or steak with a choice of sides. South Burlington's Guild & Company now ran over with a Thanksgiving-like Sunday dinner option of local chicken with all the fixings. Niko has an amazing deal with three courses of delicious Mediterranean specialties for \$20 on Sunday night. And the confited-and-fried pork shank at the Headquarter's Friday night pop-up in Burlington? It's served a different way nearly every week, and I want them all. Tacos, no notes—whether chef Luke Stone throws at me, I'll collect his edible breakfast cereals.

**CH:** It seemed like octopus was suddenly everywhere this year, grilled with garlic-basted yogurt at *Pescos* in Burlington; smoky, tender, wood-fired tentacles at *Bin of the Wood* in Burlington; curled atop a steakhouse porch; grilled with chorizo and charred onion at *Mustard Turnip*; braised and crisped atop cucumber-yogurt at *Solo Farm & Table* in South Landisberry. There were even curls of octopus for sale at fish counters. Vermont had a cephalopod epidemic this year, and it was bloodily infectious.



LUKE STONE



KEVIN GIVNEY



GUILD & COMPANY

## Best Takeout

**AL:** Sure, you can eat from your lunchbox at one of the window counters at *Benito*, but it's even more fun to take it back to the office and make your colleagues dread. I haven't met a single dish I haven't loved at the best take-out in the Ben Ben Japanese Restaurant chain.

And I can afford to find my dependencies. Receptionally flavored miso soup is \$5, while ultra-fresh, made-to-order sushi tops out at \$6. I haven't eaten my way through all the bento boxes and yet, but whether I'm ordering *teriyaki*, *gyuza*, or a *hanshi* collar, I know the myriad sides will be different from those of the day before and just as delicious.

**CH:** The staff of Burlington's Lucky Next Door start updating their magic at breakfast with creative skills bubbling over with baked eggs. These can't be taken out, of course, but most every scrumptious lunch item can be. These include a barking mouth-watering beef-and-shrimp beef sandwich stuffed with pillowy meat, wilted bitter greens, spicy cherry-pepper relish and melted cheese, a uridine plate tossed with capers and slivers of red onion in an earthy mustard sauce, a cucumber salad showered with crumbled peanuts, a goopy, caramelized mac and cheese—um, now I'm hungry.

## Best New Food/Ag Book

**CH:** Butterworth's Farm's Jack Lator is known and beloved for beyond the tight-knit world of Vermont agriculture, and not just for his luscious organic papayas and leeks. He's also an innovator who has spent 35 years honing the art of growing grains in rocky northern Vermont. Recently, Lator spent months distilling that knowledge into the 448-page *The Organic Grain Grower—Small-Scale, Holistic Grain Production for the Home and Market Producer*, released by Chelsea Green Publishing last summer. It covers everything from judging soil fertility and taking care to grainy dog and the merits of various flour mills. Most of the guidelines are drawn from Lator's direct experience. He gaps that growing grain in Vermont is "a great way to lose money," but his book is likely to be a touchstone for generations of farmers to come.

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## Supper Superlatives 2013



The Wood by Eugene

### Most Addictive Sweet

All: The crunch of the fudgy exterior, the oom of the Michel Cluizel chocolate, the buttery inner reaches. There isn't a single region of the anatomy of the Little Sweets pain au chocolat whose description doesn't sound almost pornographic. Just a chocolate crumb? Pardon the thought. Just like Andrew Lothman's crêpes, vinyl-filled cinnamon buns and pitch-perfect ice creams, this decadent sweet from the Hut of the Wood pastry chef is several cuts above.

DE: Though it's not new this year, Quebec's Trap Door Bûche à la Cane & Café is the best bakery that most northern Vermonters have never heard of. Owner Theodora Dumas and her staff ferret the Upper Valley peaches. With perfect, fudgy crêpes, crumble-topped blueberry muffins, and glazed louloumaki, a subtly sweet Greek pastry I have a serious crush on. But what the Bûche à la Cane's owner is. This year, luxury sugar cookies topped with caramel, a drizzle of melted chocolate and crumbled pecans. Even gluten-free eaters are not safe from their seductions. Carrot cake petit fours, topped with blossoms of ginger buttercream and showered with gilded coconut, look gluten but are laden with goodness.



Line of the Wood

### Best Guilty Pleasure

AL: There are two kinds of guilty pleasure food you're embarrassed to eat because of its low-rent cultural association, and morech that you know won't do your body any good. Though it usually deals in healthy organic dishes, Deborah Nemec's Asian Deli in Winoaki hits off both bones with its occasional special, the wasabi baked rat.





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# Best Bite of 2013

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day at Rustic Roots

BY ALICE LEVITT

**D**iet-telling doctor, but most days I don't eat breakfast. I might have a handful of almonds and some green tea or a protein shake, but the thought of anything more turns me several shades of green.

Growing up with long summers for eating bachelors' noon, I was in my late twenties before I developed much of a palate for eggs, morning pastries and the like. Those still aren't items I crave — most of the time. I'd much rather have my first meal of the day be bruised brie or sushi.

But there is one exception. On quiet Falls Road in Shelburne, a breakfast spot opened this year that's so good I yearn for its menu items as soon as I'm done eating them, and lament having to choose just one at a time. The same goes for no lunch items, and even its drinks.

I've talked about Rustic Roots, the baby of New Jersey ex-pat couple Mike Orfan and Ashley Campbell. They purchased the business from Rob Schiefel at the Lemon Pool Café & Cidererie last year. Orfan elected to keep that name until June 2013, when he was ready to unveil his everything-from-scratch concept to Vermont.

Locals quickly fell for the offerings. Rustic Roots boasts a perfect five-star rating on restaurant-review website ZNight and comparable scores on national sites.

In a state where chefs excel at creating floral-rich dinners with ultra-local ingredients, Orfan has struck a nerve by crafting breakfast and lunch with the same care, passion and generosity that diners have come to expect from the Bluebird Taverna and Hen of the Woods of Vermont.

That's why, in a year of standstills that included the deluge of ground-breaking restaurant incubators Artisan! Kitchen Collective and habit-forming Japanese take-out spot Bento, Rustic Roots is my choice for the best new Vermont restaurant of 2013. Here are a few more reasons in support.

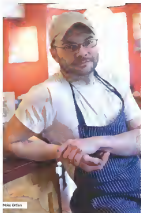
## Best Dish

Sometimes the only acceptable decision is not to decide. That's why my go-to item at Rustic Roots is the signature Rustic Breakfast. At \$12, it's like a mini breakfast buffet on a plate.

Orfan honed his characteristic skills in his previous kitchen at Rafe Restaurant in Hamilton, N.J. The expertise shows in a pair of homemade breakfast meats included in the dish.

Roasted bacon is Orfan's take on lean Canadian peasant bacon, with smoky lean meat sizzling for faty belly. The crisp edges are caramelized in butter for a sophisticated hint of smoky flavor. The slivery link of coffee-maple sausage, served in two halves to prolong savoring, packs a sweet, earthy punch of burning pork fat.

**IT WOULD BE WRONG  
TO SAY THIS SANDWICH  
TASTES LIKE  
A MOTHER'S LOVE.  
ITS APPEAL IS  
FAR TOO CARNAL.**



Mike Orfan



Rustic Roots

## food

When diners are presented with a choice of eggs, most chefs recommend them poached or over easy. Not Orlan, who knows his creamy scramble is something special. It's a great complement to the merguez-based potato cheeks that replace more common lamb browns.

The song on the Rustic Breakfast cake is a pretty popover that bursts with herbed butter like a pastry version of chicken Kiev.

### What Else to Eat

Everything. No, seriously. If you're like us, you'll devour yourself to trying a different item from each menu, along with your staple Rustic Breakfast.

In the morning, that night, mean the schied-corned French toast. The thick-cut, homemade yeast bread is drenched in custard that transforms its texture into something akin to bread pudding. A deep, dark slice of custard is relieved by a smattering of milk, which also keeps the dish from being too sweet.

At lunch, you can't go wrong with Orlan's from-scratch gastrons on house-yeast. Even the greasy mustard is prepared in-house. It would be wrong to say this sandwich tastes like a mother's love, its appeal is far too casual.

The more faint of heart might try the bakery-smoked chicken sandwich. Ideally balanced, an layer of onion jam sweetens the meaty bird and crisp bacon. Pungent blue adds a countering wash of cream to the fillings streaked on homemade focaccia.

And I haven't even tried dinner yet. In recent weeks, Rustic Roots has added a three-course prix fixe on Saturday nights. The \$30 menu is definitely on my to-eat list.

### What to Drink

At the soft opening of Rustic Roots' new downtown small-plates night, Campbell poured me a Spiced Pinot, a combination of herbaceous homemade soda and sparkling wine. I don't drink alcohol, but I didn't mind. I later learned there's also the Seasonal Pinot, a house-fuse version of the same drink.

My go-to beverage, however, is the rich hot cocoa. On its own, the thick drinking chocolate would be worth a try, but the addition of cinnamon and other spices makes this winter warmer than like gingerbread cookies melted in chocolate. It's good enough to drink even in the summer.

### Food for the Eyes

The work of local artists is on display all around the small, often-bustling cafe, and its website offers links to the artists' stores or websites.

This suggest of Shelburne area art is a surprise, given Campbell's own creative inclinations. The designed Rustic Roots' tangled logo, but her primary artistic passion is more seasonal: carving jack-o'-lantern portraits.

Campbell and her father, Steve, appeared on "The Dr. Oz Show" last year with her pumpkin portrait of the syndicated TV host. This year, she carved the Rustic Roots logo into an extra-large pumpkin for diners to admire. Clearly, this couple has some serious knife skills.

Orlan and Campbell's warm, comfortable restaurant has certainly carved out a space in my heart — and stomach. ☺

### INFO

Rustic Roots: 345 Folly Road, Shelburne; 875-5333 rusticrootsvt.com



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# calendar

DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 8

## THU. 26

### Arts & Festivals

**FRONTSTREET** Annual arts demos, upcycled craft releases, themed story times and snowfall hit to uplight the museum's reborn offerings. 10-100 Lake Avenue West & West Corner Library Center for Lake County in Burlington. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular admission \$8.50. 12-15: free for kids. 2 and under: info. 607-324-5385

### Film

**EVERY 2 SECONDS** Kenneth Finkle's drama explores the father-son consequences of domestic abuse, in a story created by reporter working undercover in a women's prison facility. Ottumwa Arts Center in Johnsbury. 7 p.m. Free info. 746-2662

### Games

**OPENING-BOOK GAME** Players of varying experience level put strategic skills to use using Public Library's Holiday Library 7-10 p.m. Free. Info. 452-3373

### Health & Fitness

**FORZA: THE SAMURAI SWORD WARRIOR** Scrimas sculpt lessons muscles and physical fitness while performing katas with wooden replicas of a sword. North End Studio at Burlington. 6-7 p.m. \$10. Info. 576-8243

**GROUP MEDITATION** Tunes still their minds in a support session. Westford Library. 7 p.m. Free. Info. 876-3922

**HEALING WITH ANCIENT WISDOM** Reiki master Cheryl Morgan blends folkloric wisdom with ancient and modern techniques. North End Institute. Burlington. 5-6:30 p.m. \$10. Info. 671-4568

**BY THE SEA WITH ORIN PELLERIE** An in-depth exploration of beach and coastal environments informs this individualized approach to the Biscuitman's art. 2 Waterside Mall. Center Westport. 7-8:30 p.m. \$14. Info. 872-0382

**YIN-YANG FLOW** Yoga classes are crafted as an interlocking, flowing, balancing and stretching negative mental exercises. George Coste Yoga. Montpelier. noon-1 p.m. \$12. Info. 846-5277 or yinflow.com

### Local History

**CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM** Festivities celebrate the holiday with 19th-century style with candle dipping, cornmeal marking, horse-drawn sleigh rides and sledding. Millage Farm & Museum. Newfane. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Regular admission \$2-12. Free for kids 2 and under. Info. 457-2252

### Local

**FRANKLIN STREET HALL** Performers celebrate holiday songs and folk. Franklin Library. Franklin. 10-10:30 a.m. Free. Info. 283-4225

**MONTGOMERY INFANT/TODDLER PLAYGROUP** Infants to 2-year-olds. Divulge the hours with stories and songs. Montgomery Town Library. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info. 537-5426

**HOLDS WITH DANCE** Preschoolers up to age 5 build and strengthen dance moves to traditional and original folk. Dorothy Alling Museum. Loring. 10-10:30 a.m. Free. Preschoolers one session per week per family. Info. 876-4933

**WIND-UPPER PLAYGROUP** Crafts, stories and outdoor adventures delight little ones up to age 5. Santa Maria's Elementary School. 9-10:30 a.m. Free. Info. 222-1312

### Language

**RENEWED SPANISH LESSONS** Hometown developers' consistency on campus. 37 Charlotte Street. Burlington. 6-7:30 p.m. \$10. Info. 264-9571. [spanishrenewal.com](http://spanishrenewal.com)

### Performing Arts

**SLUG-GUGGERS** Daily up to 10th for parents. 900 Vermont Street. New Bedford. 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info. 222-1312

### Religion

**WHITE CHRISTMAS** Carol Dumas directs this Northern Stage musical at an of the holiday film about two World War II women who down their Christmas cheer to Vermont. Come in and see the original Region 1 Stars. Briggs Open House. White River. 7-9:30 p.m. \$10-10. Info. 286-1000

SEE 27 FOR 54

DEC. 29 & JAN. 4 | TALKS



## Peaks and Valleys

Brian Mohr and Emily Johnson have dedicated their lives to the outdoors. And skiers and outdoor workers, the award-winning photojournalists and environmentalists own and operate Ember Photography, widely reported for images of nature in its purest state. Having graced the pages of *Outside Magazine*, the *New York Times* and other publications including this one, the Vermont-based pair focuses close to home with "O' Peaks in the Northeast." A mix of photos, video and narrative, this ode to the region's old terrain doubles as a platform for ongoing conservation efforts in the state and beyond.

### BRIAN MOHR & EMILY JOHNSON

Sunday, December 29, 7 p.m. at Grifone's Pub. Sign up at [www.EmberPhoto.com](http://www.EmberPhoto.com). Free. Saturday, January 4, 7 p.m. at Mt. Rust Glen. Sign up at [www.EmberPhoto.com](http://www.EmberPhoto.com). \$5. Info. 286-8434

## Home for the Holidays

Richard "Buddy DeMoor" nipped Caribou, don't tips, weathered boots and over-the-top Vermont accents is a professionally trained actor. Before crisscrossing his now famous character "the Logger" he landed his theatrical chops at the Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre and New York City's George Lozier Actors Theatre School and Los Angeles Theatre. These days, the Stowe resident has a multi-generational following that finds to love performances including the Logger's Holiday Variety Show, hosted by champion fiddler Patrick Ross, Kerry Ann and winner Peter Miller and recording artist Meghan Miller. DeMoor delivers a first-paced evening of comedy and music that showcases his fiddle playing.

### THE LOGGER'S HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW

Friday, December 23, and Saturday, December 24, 6-11 p.m. at Stowe High School. \$25. Info. 888-8878. Through to Jan. 1, Saturday, December 31, 8 p.m. at Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe. \$25-35. Info. 462-8434. [sprucepeak.org](http://sprucepeak.org)

DEC. 27-28 & 31 | THEATER

SEE 27 FOR 54

PHOTO BY ANDREW MERRITT



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### CALENDAR EVENTS IN SEVEN DAYS

1. BURLINGTON'S SEVEN DAYS OF THEATRE. BURLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB. 10-11:30 p.m. \$10-15. 2. BURLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB. 10-11:30 p.m. \$10-15. 3. BURLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB. 10-11:30 p.m. \$10-15. 4. BURLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB. 10-11:30 p.m. \$10-15. 5. BURLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB. 10-11:30 p.m. \$10-15. 6. BURLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB. 10-11:30 p.m. \$10-15. 7. BURLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB. 10-11:30 p.m. \$10-15.



JAN 6 | MUSIC

## Staying Power

In 1994, Rusted Root burst onto the music scene with their second album, *When I Woke*. More than the six million albums sales later, the Pittsburgh-based band — forever linked to the hit single “Send Me on My Way” — is still at it. Molding acoustic, rock and world music, the six-piece group has no secrets out about success. Their sound mixes Afro-Caribbean rhythms into a jam-band base. Working their 10th studio release, Rusted Root’s 2012 release *The Movement* brings the musical traditions of India, Africa and the soul into a contemporary styled pop format.

### RUSTED ROOT

Thursday, January 4, 8 P.M. at Pajaro Ballroom, Joy Rock Resort. \$30-\$75 VIP tickets. Info: 888-261-jayproducers.com



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TO WATCH VIDEOS  
363.PAGE.6

In the world of professional dance, choreographer Bill T. Jones is a living legend. “a Tony Osbo and MacArthur genius” award winner leads the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in *Play and Play: An Evening of Movement and Music*. Highlighting three works — *Continuous Replay*, *O-Man in the Waters* and *Spend Days Out Yonder* — the piece spans the years 1977 to 2000 and maintains a lightheartedness that only technical mastery can allow. Accompanying the New York City-based troupe, Bastian Gamme’s String Quartet presents works by Mozart and Mendelssohn creating a masterful intersection of the two art forms.

### BILL T. JONES/ARNIE ZANE DANCE COMPANY

Tuesday, January 7 and Wednesday, January 8, 7 p.m. at Moore Center, Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. \$22-\$50-\$90. Info: 603-646-2432; hup.dartmouth.edu



# All the Right Steps

JAN 7 & 8 | DANCE



## theater

**BLOCKED & CIRQUE SPECTACULAR** An enchanting show of circus, dance and theater gives audience members access to high flying, aerial acrobatic performance. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 3300 Main Street, 7 p.m. \$35-45. Info: 360-463-434.

**THE LOSSERS**  
**HOUSE OF VARIETY**  
**SHOW** See Feb. 23 & 30 p.m.  
**"WHITE CHRISTMAS"** See Feb. 25, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**JAMBOO! AFRICAN-STYLE TEEN DANCE PARTY** Middle and high school students hang out at this multicultural meet-up. North End Studio, 8 Burlington. 4-8 p.m. \$3 & info: 682-2505 or 663-8713.

**RUSSIAN PLAY TIME WITH NATASHA**

Kidder up to age 8. Learn new words and phrases, games, music, dance and a puppet show. Russian Museum, 1115 43rd Ave. Free. Info: 264-4610.

## Zongziing

**FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP, CHAMBERS** Participants will learn to practice the language in a casual, drop-in chat. Local history museum, Fletcher Free Library, Burlington & 300 p.m. Free. Info: 363-0433.

## musicals

**GREEN MOUNTAIN MAULER**  
**FESTIVAL OPEN REHEARSAL**

Debut and chorus parts are welcomed in the open rehearsal programs for its January 16-18 performance at Ball's Arena & North. See rehearsal only for details. North End Studio, Burlington. 4-6 p.m. Free. Info: 664-0265.

**TRISTAN HENDERSON & HAZEN METRO CONCERT** The winners of the 2013 Young Tricountain Vermont contest bring together infectious rhythms and beautiful songs in the stage. New City Center, Burlington. 7 p.m. Donations. Info: 333-3283.

## outdoors

**SLUSH RIDES** See Feb. 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

## films

**BRUN HENRI & EMILY JOHNSON** In 1987, Peter in the Mountains, the local playwright's highest-riding in our region, with music, slides and narration. Proceeds benefit an environmental organization in Vermont and beyond. See weekend opening, Caledonia Pkwy., Newbury. 7 p.m. Free. \$5 for coffee. Info: 495-5434.

## theater

**"WHITE CHRISTMAS"** See Feb. 26, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**MON.30**

## dance

**ADAPTIVE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING** Caledonia branch of all ages. Abilities are not a barrier to learning new traditions. Members and nonmembers are encouraged. North End Studio, Burlington. 1-2 p.m. \$2. Free for residents. Info: 663-8713.

**TEACHERS: Open New Chapter****Technology for Struggling Learners****Using Technology to Assist Struggling Learners**

Presentor: Chris Gohle, Ed.D.  
Location: Capital Plaza, Montpelier  
Date: Ten day workshop, January 10-13, 21  
Cost: \$200

**Workshop highlights:**  
Technology-supported ways to make student learning independent  
Technology-supported writing, language, etc.

Selecting the right tools to gauge impact on student success  
Opportunity to apply strategies in classroom workshops

**Focus on students with LD, ASD, and Dev. Disabilities: Apps for iPad, iPod, & Android**

Presentor: Gailaia Wilkins  
Date: Feb. 16  
Location: Capital Plaza, Montpelier  
Cost: \$25 per attendee, \$150 for whole day for educators working with 1-2 students

**Workshop focus:**  
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With practice, not assembly, organizing software tools to customize  
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**SUN.29**

## dance

**BELLY DANCE WITH EMILY PAPER** Drawing from ancient traditions and her rich history, Emily Paper, belly dancer, participants tap into their own inner fire and confidence. Comfortable clothing required. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100. Info: 363-0433.

## films &amp; festivals

**FESTIVAL** See Feb. 29 to 30 in-day on

## films

**"TICKET TO RIDE"**  
The latest installment of the series follows a legendary train across America's scenic and rugged terrain and returns to the world's most daunting journey. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, 3300 Main Street, 7 p.m. \$12. Info: 268-4534.

## health &amp; fitness

**ADAPTIVE DANCE WITH EMILY PAPER** Drawing from ancient traditions and her rich history, Emily Paper, belly dancer, participants tap into their own inner fire and confidence. Comfortable clothing required. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100. Info: 363-0433.

**SPIRITUAL HEALING & ENERGY-RAISING MEDITATION** Drawing on 20 years of experience, Cynthia Warwick Sells facilitates this light-hearted session aimed at increasing intuition, clarity and awareness. Newbury. 7 p.m. Free. \$5 suggested donation. Info: 495-5434.

## SUNDAY YOGA, Chelso

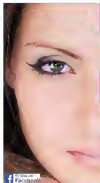
North End Studio, 1115 43rd Ave. Info: 664-0265.

## CHRISTMAS AT THE FAIR

See Feb. 26, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Arts

**HOMESIDE HELP** See Feb. 27, 2 p.m.

**WRINKLE RELAXERS**

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Hope you're enjoying this double issue!  
(We don't publish a newspaper on 1/1.)

Look for our first issue of 2014 on January 8!

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## calendar

TUE.01.01.13

### outdoors

**SLUSHHOCKEY** See THU.25 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### appt

**TRAPP HORSE CUP** Cross-country riders meet around the clock at a weekly 3K show-and-ride aimed trial. See [sevendaysvt.com](http://sevendaysvt.com) for details. Trapp Horse Lodge, North Center Street, 5 a.m.-4 p.m. \$20. Info: 253-6338

### theater

**THE LONGER'S HOLIDAY VARIETY SHOW** See THU.21. Space Peak Performing Arts Center, State Mountain Road, 7 p.m. \$25. Info: 352-4834

**WHITE CHRISTMAS** See THU.25 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

## WED.01

**WINDSOFT WEDNESDAYS** Take it up the Green City for an evening of local folkies, small plates and live entertainment. Various downtown locations. Windsoft, 5 p.m. Free. Info: 656-4863

### health & fitness

**ALPINE 9** See MON.30 6-9 p.m.

### holidays

**CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM** See THU.25 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.

### music

**GREEN MOUNTAIN HANLEY FESTIVAL** Ben of Blues and Eric Kraviec lead a grand performance of old-school & hard-core, featuring Green Mountain Band and the World Road Program. Big Long Music Center, 30 Meadow College, Colchester, 3 p.m. \$10-25. Info: 863-9988

### outdoors

**SLUSHHOCKEY** See THU.25 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### appt

**TRAPP HORSE CUP** Cross-country riders meet around the clock at a weekly 3K show-and-ride aimed trial. See [sevendaysvt.com](http://sevendaysvt.com) for details. Trapp Horse Lodge, North Center Street, 5 a.m.-4 p.m. \$20. Info: 253-6338

**REAGAN TO REINSTATE PAT RICE BINGO DAY** Bingo gets acquainted with the vet while two national ex-feds through group rules, product giveaways and more. An after-party follows. Kingston Trails Horse Center, East Road to 101, 4 p.m. Free. Info: 626-0737

## THU.02

### health & fitness

**FOREA: THE SAMURAI SWORD WORKOUT** See THU.25 6-7 p.m.

**HEALING WITH ANCIENT WISDOM** See THU.25 9-10 p.m.

### film

**FRANKLIN STORY HOUR** See THU.25 10:30 a.m.

### language

**BEGINNER SPANISH LESSONS** See THU.25 6:30-8 p.m.

### music

**BURLINGTON ENSEMBLE 10/10 SERIES:** In American Music, local chamber music ensemble works by 18 living composers. Arthur Weis and Aaron Copland. Mountaintop Theatre, Rutland, 7:30 p.m. \$25-75. Info: 735-0989

### theater

**ACTING WORKSHOP** Including the opening night and up coverage that can't wait the decision of someone of color. Teen Writers, Vermont Institute of Contemporary Arts, Chester, 4 p.m. \$20-80. Info: 875-3358

## FRI.03

### dance

**BALLROOM & LATIN DANCING** See FR.27 7:30 p.m.

### film

**TICKET TO RIDE** See SAT.28 7 p.m.

### food & drink

**CORNY PAUL** Breakfast products and beverages from Vermont's independent producers with local spots and farmers' items. Various downtown locations. Burlington, 7 a.m. \$45. Info: 656-4863

**FISHFRY** Pick of the crop. Choose from fish and locally sourced items. VFW Post, Dorset, 4 p.m. \$10-15. Info: 875-0982

**health & fitness**  
**ARND FALLS WITH IMPROVED STABILITY** See FRU.27 10 a.m.

### film

**BABY BIRD BIRTH** See FRU.27 11 a.m. noon.

**HOMESIDE HELP** See FRU.27 3-4 p.m.

**MUSIC WITH ROBERT** Music lovers of all ages join us along with Robert's friends. Diverse programs and artists with one concept: live every two children. Fletcher Free Library, Burlington, 10:30-11 a.m. Free. Info: 656-4863

### music

**BURLINGTON ENSEMBLE 10/10 SERIES** See THU.25. Mountaintop Theatre, Rutland, 7:30 p.m. \$25-75. Info: 735-0989



**YOUNG TRADITION REUNION** Established performers—including Hana Zeno, Josh & Maddison, and Josh & Jodi—join tonight to bring Tradition Reunion with a raucous concert. Performers benefit the Tom Squire Fund. **Hymn Society**, Burlington, 7 p.m. \$12. Info: 802-388-0000.

#### theater

**DR. HORNBILL'S SING-ALONG MUS.** Spoken Play Productions presents a major adaptation of John Heilston's Lining Award-winning play. Meet Hornbill and all the cast members after singing songs with in Spotlight Vermont. South Burlington, 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. Free (a limited number of seats benefit Opportunity Now). **patroninfo** info: 352-6941.

#### LEARN-GROW

**SUPERSTAR** Mary Mory. Thanks to its stage, The Play and Andrew Lloyd Webber is not just about the land around it. **Amos**, Whitehall Theatre, Main Street/Landing Performing Arts Center, Burlington, 7 p.m. \$9 suggested donation. Info: 352-5444.

## SAT.04

#### food & drink

**BURLINGTON WINTER FARMERS MARKET** Farmers' market and produce, fresh eggs, prepared foods, craft and more in a bustling outdoor market space with live music, craft, and food. **Indoor**, Burlington, 10 a.m. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 352-3332; [burlingtonfarmersmarket.org](http://burlingtonfarmersmarket.org).

#### CALDERON WINTER FARMERS

**MARKET** Fresh baked goods, veggie, beef and maple syrup. **Open** in front of the display of "hug" food. **Open**, 10 a.m. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 352-3332.

**BURLAND WINTER FARMERS MARKET** Sat. SAT.10, 10 a.m. 2 p.m.

#### holidays

**SWINGING OFFSHORE CELEBRATION** The 16, post-Swing North Dog Band Orchestra welcomes the Christmas day through tonight, jazz and arrangements and live music. **St. John's Episcopal Church**, Newport, 7-10 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. **Info**: 352-3332.

#### kids

**OPEN TOT SHOW & INFANT/PARENT PLAY** Time, play, and a place to meet other parents. **Info**: 352-3332. **Open** in front of the display of "hug" food. **Open** in front of the display of "hug" food. **Open** in front of the display of "hug" food.

**Elementary School Symposium** **Open** Academy. **Info**: 352-3332.

**YOGA YETI** **Yoga** Yeti. **Info**: 352-3332.

#### music

**BURLAND WINTER FARMERS MARKET** **Info**: 352-3332.

**CATLIN CANY** **Info**: 352-3332.

**YOGA YETI** **Yoga** Yeti. **Info**: 352-3332.

**YOGA YETI** **Yoga** Yeti. **Info**: 352-3332.

**YOGA YETI** **Yoga** Yeti. **Info**: 352-3332.

#### performers

**YOGA YETI** **Yoga** Yeti. **Info**: 352-3332.

#### open

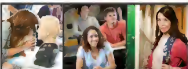
**YOGA YETI** **Yoga** Yeti. **Info**: 352-3332.

#### info

**YOGA YETI** **Yoga** Yeti. **Info**: 352-3332.

#### theater

**YOGA YETI** **Yoga** Yeti. **Info**: 352-3332.



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with Lisa Mac from Harmonized Cookery

**Monday, January 14th 6-8-9pm**  
**Natural Medicine for Children:  
Colds, Coughs, and Ear Infections**  
with Shona MacDougall, Clinical Certified Herbalist

**Monday, January 20th 6-7:30pm**  
**Do-it-Yourself (and Locals!) Bodycare Products:  
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# 2013 in Review

Looking back at the year in music news

BY DAN ROLLES

**W**ith one year's hindsight about to close, it's time once again to look back and reflect on the year in local music.

2013 got off to a life-threatening start in we learned in January that longtime area DJ Andy Williams, aka DJ A Dog, had been diagnosed with leukemia. A slew of benefit shows followed. In an effort to ease the astronomical cost of treatment for Williams—like so many musicians, especially here in Gloucester—did not have adequate health insurance.

His recovery in the months since has been turbulent. Williams received a bone marrow transplant, which itself was something of a near miracle, given the difficulty of finding a suitable genetic match. It took several weeks, but a donor was found. Williams is now safely undergoing treatment in Boston, where he and girlfriend Jane usually keep the D.J. by the side of the road and friends go to see him at Faneuil Hall. We heard on Jan. 10 when Williams might be healthy enough to return to the marketplace again. But expect more benefit shows and general support for A Doggie 2014.

Also in January, the local indie music scene was dealt a blow when the Black Door closed, shutting yet another venue in the center of downtown in the capital city. However in February we learned that a new Mispellier club would soon open in the former Longfellow Street Café space. Sweet Mispellier's opened in July. Killing a much-needed strike in a winter art music town.

February was the end of a good experiment—and the closure of another nightclub—in Burlington comedy club. It only thrived in its first year in its month run. However, despite the loss of the strictly comedy comedy venue, standup has continued to flourish in Vermont. More on that in a bit.

In March, the documentary *Black Bird Called Death*, by VPI experts Mark Cervino and Jeff Hawford, about Detroit postpunk band Death, raised quite a stir at SXSW. The film has since gone national with the annual release and premier of selection from cities and has the world eye.



In May came the third installment of the Waking Windows festival in Winslow. The two-day event was an unbridled success. Curated by Anaglyphy Media, with an assist from MSR Presents. Friends & Family and others, it proved to be a pitch-perfect showcase of local and regional underground talent. Other local festivals may have attracted more musicians and power, but Waking Windows staked its claim as the coolest music fest in the state.

Also in May, the Green Mountain Comedy Festival enjoyed its biggest and best year yet. The five-day high art festival drew more than 150 local bands and an impressive crowd at venues in Burlington, Winslow, Montpelier and Vergennes. It also included several professional improv comedy troupes and national standup headliners, the most notable being Todd Barry.

In June, the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary with headliners such as Robby McElroy, Javier Nunez, Graham Furlan and Branford Marsalis. Becca Ditzel's "New

that Pitch and the ED" JP were the same again, 2013?

Also in June, the local music scene was saddened by the sudden death of Mike Dautsch, a terrific musician known for his work with bands such as Black

Sea Quartet, Chromeo, Duster, Mongolito, and most recently, Spine Tiger—the last alongside his son, Adam. Dautsch was Danish. An immigrant in Radio Rock—an establishment he almost singlehandedly saved from financial ruin—Dautsch was remembered as a wonderful musician and a fun-loving friend. We miss you, Michael.

In July, a pair of festival 1990s during the bands, Grappler and Hives, reunited for a show at the Midway House. Later in the year, Strangely & Superheroes, two other beloved local acts, hit on that same day also got their respective bands back together.

In late July, another local music festival made waves as the second annual Pervasive Music and Arts Fest took up residence in the fields behind Burlington College

on North Avenue. The three-day fest featured, well, almost every band in the area. Though it didn't quite make a splash as audience goals, it was widely regarded as a unique and special event.

The Artful was in September as accompanied by the opening of a local art new venue on Pine Street, Artful. In the months since, Artful has teamed up with the crew from Signal Kitchen and quickly established itself as a unique performance space.

Also in September, Grace Potter & The Narrows, celebrating their 10th anniversary, returned home for their annual end of summer concert, Grand Point North. The two-day two-stage rock fest at Burlington's Westfront Park featured some major acts, such as Charles Bradley, Shovels & Kerosene, the Police Brothers, Jeff Mota and Transbone Sherry. It also presented a strong lineup of local acts, including Alpagodon, the DuFort Brothers, Paper Clowns, Ken Winkle & the Indolent, table Soul Band and Rough Process among others.

Finally, one of the "transport" stories of the year emerged in October when a city storage discovery that many of the seemingly discarded bins have regarding cultural and special events, bringing it Burlington's neighborhood's almost-went and never.

As *Seven Days*' Ken Ward reported, for years local bar owners and the Burlington City Council's liquor commission have essentially been operating under an urban license that has not allowed a special license to allow dancing or charge a cover at the door for entertainment. It is in reevaluating the policy earlier this year, the liquor commission discovered that no such law was in the books on either city or state levels. In July, a single liquor license was revoked, covering all restaurants, bars and clubs in the city—with no other city or state laws to enforce.

There's always to venture back as the recently expanded Jimmy Fallon, which can now charge a cover and book bigger acts. However, the current licensing situation is due to be reevaluated by August 2014, when all local watering holes undergo the licensing process again. Stay tuned. ☺

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FEST IN THE STATE.**



# SOUNDbites

BY DAN HOLLES



## New Year's Eve ... Eve

Be much hype. A little payoff.

No, no, I'm not talking about this edition, or *Andersson & Tan* referring to New Year's Eve.

(Important note: Due to early deadlines at Seven Days, this column was written on December 15, three days before *Andersson & Tan* came out. It's possible the movie is good, and I'd look like an ass when this runs. But given the film's aggressive over-promotion and the dearth of advance reviews published leading up to the release — never a good sign — I really doubt it. I hope I'm wrong.)

Back to the point, I've never entirely understood the hubbub surrounding NYE. I mean, I get that it's a *national* time to celebrate the year that was and to look ahead at the promise of a clean slate. But the ratio of planning and expense to actual fun times on NYE has always seemed like faulty math. Why am I supposed to be excited about paying \$75 to hang out at a bar I usually go to for \$50, oh, right. Cheap champagne is plastic. Dates?

So we begin this year's NYE premise by looking at some going-on in the days leading up to the ball drop that, for my money, look to be at least as enjoyable as the bulk of the one's NYE bash.

We begin at Nectar's and Club Metrozone. If you've been following along in recent weeks, you know that **DANCE POTTER & THE HORTONSMAN** drummer **MATT KUM** has been jamming with some notable locals, including **ACE WILSON**, **JOHN WHEATON** and **ONE HUNDRED**. **CO-BAND** **LOVE OF THE MOUNTAIN**, **ONE FIVE FIVE** tribute act. With the help of some special guests, each Wednesday in December — except Jan's birthday, of course — the band has mined the depths of the Floyd catalog. And judging by the hubbub on the Facebooks, it's been quite a show.

The band's residency wraps up this Sunday, December 28, at Club Metrozone, with an all-star blow-out jam. *Sited to appear* are soul/rocksteady **DAVE KAT WILSON**, **WHEATON**'S **KYLE KAY** and **THE NIGHT BROTHERS** **MATT BAKER**. But the big name here is *hoped-to-be* **BARCO ROSENBERG**, who likely made little introduction 'round these parts.

Also, if I were a betting man, I might try decent odds on Barr's wife showing up, too. Just a hunch.

(As an aside, do you think Barr ever got tired of being referred to as "Genie Fattori's drummer/busband"? As I've

seen other publications describe him lately?)

Speaking of Hugen, on Friday, December 27, Nectar's is hosting a beach party called *Beach* that features the surf-rock stylings of the High Seaside, **ACE WILSON** & spinning surf tunes and other beach-friendly music, as well as some super-announced acts. Word is the joint is going to crank the heat, so the promise of free entry with beach attire seems less foolhardy than *onscene*. I can tell there will also be specials on beachy cocktails and a beach-themed photo booth. Now, if they really wanted to go all out, they'd truck in a bunch of sand for the floor, like that UTM that whose party I went to in college. Ah, youth.

Moving on, *roxy soul duo* **ONION & NICOLA** have been pretty quiet locally since **WHEELHOUSE**'s aggressive run on NBC's "The Voice" last year — just google her rendition of "Hallelujah," if you missed it. We'll wait...

Anyway, they'll be at the Higher Ground Showcase Lounge this Friday, December 27, with **STONEDMUSIC.COM**. I've been saying this pretty often since they landed on Burlington a few years ago, but Dwight & Nicola are easily one of the area's most compelling live acts, so take any chance you get to catch them in person.

Finally, happy birthday to the Monkey House in Winslow, which turns one this Saturday, December 28. The blarney local features some killer local talent, including **ONE HUNDRED**, **ACE WILSON**, **BLACK SABBATH**, **EASTERN MOUNTAIN** and **ONE FIVE FIVE** & THE AFFINITIES, with more to be announced.

But the real news here is that this show will either be the last on the bar's current stage, which sits in a corner by the front door, or the first on its new stage, which will go in the back of the room and, presumably, be far less cramped. Either way, that sounds like a reason to celebrate.

SOUNDBITES BY D.H.

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VIRBANT ARTS NEWS • VIEWS

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### RUBBLEBUCKET

DECEMBER

**DWIGHT & NICOLE**  
**RYAN MONTBLEAU**  
THE CURRENT BRANCHES

**RICKY VAUGHN**  
KIDNEY CUPPERS, LUCKY MATCH

**LAKE STREET DIVE**  
JUNE 10

**RUBBLEBUCKET**  
FELONY AND THE MIGHTY, MON-SUN

**RUBBLEBUCKET**  
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NEW QUESTIONS IN THE DANCE PARTY

JANUARY

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**CLUTCH**  
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# SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33



BRIAN KANE

## What Are You Doing New Year's, New Year's Eve?

Ify now, you're probably saying something like, "Gee, **MAN** knows. That was great and all. And you're right about NYE being overdone. But we still need some suggestions for what to do that night. I mean, not I that, like, your job?" OK, then. Here's a quick rundown of some best bet options for a **WAAA** **SHAWNEE**-less NYE.

The big hub on the dock is undoubtedly **WAMMAMORET**'s two-night stand at the Higher Ground Ballroom. **BLACK TORN**, **KALINA TREASER** and co. have inhabited the year and blow at from **SHAKEDUP** and **THE MICHIGAN**. And, like GPN, they've taken to inviting some top-notch local and regional talent to open the shows. On Monday, December 30, the band will be joined by **HELLO** and **THE SAVING PRIVATE** and Montpelier's **HOW**

and on Tuesday, December 31, show up early for **Knocky**-based cinematic projects to **MONA MONA** and a trio over some of **GLASS**, **ROUGH FRENCH**. (Full disclosure: **RP**'s **BOBBY FACKNEY** works for 7D and will be laying out this very page. Stop, Bobby?)

Meanwhile, **Artisan** at Pine Street has become Burlington's most talked about venue since its debut at this year's Art Shop. So you know it's probably got something cool for the Eve. Indeed, the club/gallery/restaurant features two sets from the **OFFSHORE** **DRINK** **ENSEMBLE**, who rocked a sold-out **Sigrid** Kitchen show with their badass fusion of jazz and hip-hop in October. It's a pricey ticket, but there's no open bar and canned food, which you know will be good.

Deadheads take note: local **ARMY** **RUSSIA** **BEARD** **ANALYST** **CATS** launch **THE** **STARS** take residency at Club Metrovase to host a special two-night NYE

incarnation of the weekly tribute series **Dead Set**. And if you're more your year NEE style, the **10 YARD** crew hold court downstairs at Sector's, and there is a discounted deal for those who want to bring out on both days.

Some other local NYE options worth mentioning include **The Snow Ball** with **JOHN PANDA** and **THE MET** on **POWER** at the Skinny Pancake in Burlington, surf punk **TRAPDOOR** **ROCK** at the Reserve in Waterbury, **BARBERS** at Radio Bean in Burlington, **TALLGRASS** **GETDOWN** at Sweet Melissa's in Montpelier, and, after hours are more your speed, the **Black** **Club** above from longtime area residents **FLAMINGO** at **On Tap** in Essex Junction.

And with that, I bid you a happy New Year. Until 2014. ☺

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**THE BROTHERS**, 7 pm-10 pm  
**SPIDER HOLE**, 7 pm-10 pm

## SUN. 16 FEB.

## central

**BARBERS** 1015 Concord Ave., Burlington, Vt.  
**CHARLIE D'S** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**POSITIVE PEOPLE** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
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**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.

## champlain valley

**CLUB LAMBS** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.

## northern

**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
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**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.

## regional

**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.

## SUN. 29

## burlington area

**BARBERS** 1015 Concord Ave., Burlington, Vt.  
**CLUB LAMBS** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.

**PERNITZ BOE** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
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## northern

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**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.

## MON. 30

## burlington area

**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.  
**THE BLUEBERRY RESTAURANT & TAP ROOM** 1000 Park St., Burlington, Vt.

## MON. 30 IN VT

## Gotta Have Faith

The tiny northern Maine town of Presque Isle (pop. 6529) is not known as a haven of progressive, literate rock sounds. But it's **CRANK WITCH** are hardly slaves to convention. The nationally touring duo's latest record, *Faith in the Thief*, delivers gnarly, energetic music infused with elements of rock and pop. It has critics and audiences alike singing the band's praises — and moshing like crazy. Catch the *Crunk at Nectar's* in Burlington on Thursday, January 2, with local **WAVE OF THE FUTURE**, **BLACK BABY** and **BU TROCKY PAE**.



THU. 30 // CRANK WITCH (ELECTRO-ROCK)

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SUN. 23 @ 11P

## MON.06

## burlington area

**HALLOWING** Family's JAM (rock) 10 (Pop m. free)**J.P. CLUB** Dance (Latin/Reggae) Night with Moody (Jazz) 10 p.m. free**MANHATTAN PIZZA & PINE** Open Mic 10 p.m. free**ON TAP BAR & GRILL** Open Mic with Hyley 7 p.m. free**RADIO BEAN** Open Mic 8 p.m. free**OLD SQUARE** Murder (pop/jazz) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free

## central

**CHALK & Q'S** New Music 8 p.m., free

## northern

**HOUSE & PLACE** Latin Rockers (Latin/Reggae) 10 p.m. free

## TUE.07

## burlington area

**CLUB HALLOWING** Great Rock with Cats Under the Stars (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HALLOWING** Thursday's Tropical Reggae (Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HIGHER GROUND BALLROOM** Against All the Odds (Rock) 10 (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free

SUN. 23 @ 11P LARK STREET BAND (ROCK POP)

## Jazzed Up

Caring out of the New England Conservatory of Music, the members of **Lark Street Band** are certainly well trained. But the band's appeal is a hard-to-define. With a charming blend of jazz, folk and pop, the quartet has drawn raves from the likes of *National Public Radio*, the *New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*. Whether at which called the group "unexpected show stoppers," Lark play the Higher Ground Ballroom in North Burlington on Sunday, December 23, with Boston-based soul rock **JAMES** also.

## champlain valley

**TWO BROTHERS TAVERN** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free

## northern

**JOEY'S KNEED** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**HOUSE & PLACE** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free

## WED.08

## burlington area

**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**CLUB HALLOWING** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**MANHATTAN PIZZA & PINE** Open Mic with Andy 10 p.m. free**MONKEY HOUSE** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**NATIVE** (Jazz/Club Rock) 10 p.m. free**ON TAP BAR & GRILL** Open Mic with Hyley 7 p.m. free**RADIO BEAN** Open Mic 8 p.m. free**OLD SQUARE** Murder (pop/jazz) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free**QUEEN JAMES** Why Not? (Rock) with Setaia (Pop Rock) 10 p.m. free

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# Headlong Into Art

Gisela Alpert

**G**isela Alpertman also and also, but she likes to have art work by and hold A.M. on a cold, active with a back ground in landscaping. Alpert paints much larger than life-size close-ups of flowers. She has also chiseled the top portions of a pair of 16-ton, 12-foot-tall black cast-iron slabs that are part of her elaborate designs for a small park at the entrance to a shopping plaza in Milton.

REVIEW

This installation, titled "Unity," was commissioned by Burlington developer Bruce Pennerlein as an educational device to his recently completed 11-unit, natural supermarket project.

"It's something different for Milton," says Alpert, whose designs were chosen from among eight proposals submitted in response to Pennerlein's call to local artists. "It's something that helps put Milton on the cultural map."

"Unity" gives metaphysical form to the town's most topographical features. The twin monoliths are meant to represent the two highest points in Milton: Goshic Hill and Acornwood Mountain. A series of pictures etched in granite guide the viewer's thoughts as their stone slides to the Lanesville River, which is depicted as a spillway into a pool that marks the Lake Champlain. The whole installation is based on a circle, signifying unity.

It's quite an undertaking for a 68-year-old woman who's been making art for less than a decade. Alpert experienced an epiphany in 2005 right after she had finished remodeling the house in a rural corner of Milton that she shares with her husband, Tom. Alpert's reaction to owner Adam Alpert: "It was kind of very happy." Alpert replies, "so I decided to buy myself a small herbicide present" — an oil paint kit. It was an impulse purchase, Alpert wasn't even an amateur artist at that point.

But, learning with self-confidence, she plunged into painting without taking a single lesson. In that room appropriate to learn about art and in a formal way, Alpert explains while leading a superior on a tour of the three-story studio that alights her equally spacious home.



**PAINTING TURNS OUT TO BE SOMETHING I WAS BORN TO DO, ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL LATER IN LIFE.**

"Thinking how we could spend it wouldn't be painting what I had in mind. I'd be painting what I was taught," Alpert reasons. "I wished to let my own creativity flourish."

And flourish it did. "It was obvious from her first art" says that Gisela has a fabulous talent," comments Jane Margue, a local partner who has watched Alpert's art develop. It became more technically sophisticated and aesthetically appealing as Alpert painted and painted — and as she received suggestions from Margue and some of the most experienced members of the Milton Artists' Guild. Alpert joined the group a few years ago and, in keeping with her go-gutter personality, now serves as its president.

"Painting turns out to be something I wished to do," Alpert reflects, "although I didn't realize it until later in life."

Her resolve grew for self-expression has produced the one-sided family dishonored throughout her studio and home.



These close-ups appear as though they were painted while the artist was looking through a magnifying glass.

The dazzlingly bright palette Alpert favors further heightens the visual impact. One of her eponymous of still life is particularly noteworthy. Viewers might feel they've been bent onto an undulating sea of red petals, with a couple of sun-colored stones bobbing like lifeboats on the roughly 6-by-4-foot canvas.

It's odd to walk to look at Alpert's flowers and not think of Georgia O'Keeffe's acknowledgments in that gear. Alpert acknowledges the occasional butters in the next imitating O'Keeffe — and we are not even inspired by the luminous representations of bloom, roses, irises and peonies that it have become some of the most admired canvases in American art.

"I didn't even know O'Keeffe's work when I started painting," Alpert confesses. "Now I admire her tremendously, but I don't think there's much resemblance between what I do and what she did."

That's true. Alpert's flowers are much bigger in scope and less microscopic in detail than are O'Keeffe's. Alpert also doesn't smooth her subject matter to the extent O'Keeffe did, although there's a sensual, even erotic, quality to the floral works hanging on walls or propped on easels in Alpert's sunny studio.

She was not in stress, too, Alpert acknowledges, referring to the sculptures she started making in 2008. "At some point, no matter what you're working on, a certain anger comes out of the vision, and then it changes into something else," she suggests.

"I love the tactile aspect of sculpting," Alpert adds. "It's really different from painting, which are not so much about touching."

She once again hurled herself into a medium that was as new to her. With sculpture, however, Alpert did take a name: Katherine S. Stockman, owner of Stillness Pond Studios, in which Morgan had introduced her. "I was OK with learning from Kathy because I had a feel of it as my own for sculpture, a whole painting," Alpert explains.

It took Alpert while to figure out how to work the bulkiness of a stone that's being transformed into a work of art. Stockman recalls, "Many painters at first have an idea what to do with a stone dimensional form," she notes.

Alpert's first sculpture — a ray for "Unity" — emerged almost spontaneously from a piece of pink and white Colorado alabaster. Stockman remembers, "Gisela saw a woman's torso in the stone right away, and she just carved it out." The result, her second, big-lipped figure now sits on a pedestal in the living room of Alpert's house.

"The stone tells you what it wants you to do," Alpert says she's come to realize. "You have some idea of what you want to create, but the end result probably won't be 100 percent what you had in mind."

KEVIN J. KELLEY

## ONGOING

## Burlington area

**20th ANNUAL LUTHER MARKET** A selection of handmade jewelry, paintings, cards, glassware and other novelties will be on sale for next month. Through December 31 at 600A Greenway in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**ALUMINUM** "Abstract" paintings and drawings. Through January 10 at Artlink in Burlington. Info: 862-5433.

**ANTHONY AND A DOLLY REMINI** A large collection of beautiful posters. American artist Anthony Remini's artwork is displayed throughout Burlington from artists on canvas called "the world's oldest" through December 31 at Fineprint in Burlington. Info: 524-0889.

**ART OF WINTER: EXHIBITION AND OPEN-UP-ART MARKET** Various handmade and original art is on display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and photography is being displayed. To show off your gifts, bring your own art to show. Through December 31 at Burlington. Info: 524-0889.

**BARBARA K. HAYES** An exhibit of paintings in various styles by the artist. Through January 31 at New Moon Cafe in Burlington. Info: 383-7029.

**BURKE PATTERSON AND SUELY HARRISON** The 20th annual winter group show is brought to you by members of the Burlington area and Carolyn Burke and Sue Harrington. Through January 31 at Burlington. Info: 524-0889.

**CLOTHES-UP ARTIST OF THE MONTH** An exhibit of clothing and accessories by the artist. Through January 31 at 600A Greenway and Burlington. Info: 524-0889.

**BURLINGTON BARS** "Winter Spring" artwork that will be on display at the Burlington area. Through January 31 at 600A Greenway and Burlington. Info: 524-0889.

**CARL REISCH** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**CAROL REISCH** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**CAROLYN HALL** "In the air" art exhibit featuring various works by the artist. Through December 31 at 600A Greenway and Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**COLOR PATTERNS: HIGH-SCALE: THE BEST OF COLORFUL ART** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**COUNTRY HUNTER** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**DAVID AND ANNE: 50TH BIRTHDAY FOR DAVID** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**THE DOLLY REMINI** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**REINA TROP** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**THE DOLLY REMINI** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**MARK REISCH** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**DAVID AND ANNE: 50TH BIRTHDAY FOR DAVID** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**INTERNATIONAL ART MARKET** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

**MARK REISCH** A selection of paintings and drawings on sale for the next month. Through December 31 at Artlink 106 at the Main Road in Burlington. Info: 855-5222.

## TALKS &amp; EVENTS

## BURLINGTON AREA

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## LIFE CHANGING DECISION

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## APPROX 8:30

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## JANET HENDERSON

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**HITCHHIKERS:** images by the local photographer and/or home owner. Through December 25 at Gulfstream/Sheep Up Art Gallery in Mississippi. 601.234.2754

**PETER MILLER** is a writer contributing to the book market photographer's new book, *A LUCKY OF Ground People: Through January 2 of Morning*. Between 1940s and 1950s, he was a writer.

**SARAH REEDER**, a musician from the artist/author's new book *Twickenham*, about cricket grounds from A to Z. Through *Greenwich West* The Overlook for a Maryland July 2013 book

**STANDSTILL TO ENLIGHTENED**—A twofold work by an elderly Tamil of Vazhuvayal, made by Vennart Marudan. See also members, official titles. [Jahangir Khan](#) here

Trenton and friends meet with sandpiper guests by returning Wilco's art to Wang Pukim Nara, Nanda Ugalde, Laura Raboni, Anne Colman-Nichols, Kiki. Through January 18 at Newark Institute of Contemporary Art in Chester. Info: 212-312-1010

**THE PALETTE OF VERMONT ANTIQUE**  
 "Peaceful Places" warmly invites you to spend the weekend. Through December 31 at Rabbit Hole Library & Cafe. 575-252-6400

**THE WHITE STAFF** The group exhibit featuring excellent exhibits for glory pliers and models of snow. Through December 28 at 10:00 a.m. Light Gallery is the exhibit. Info: 522-5832

**TELL THE INSIDE STORY:** An intense portrait of celebrities, *Confessions of an Ill-Fated Woman* is all eyes on the reality

and/or those that make them so. Through January 31 at Portland Museum of Science in Norway. Info: 800-222-0246.

photography and acrylic and oil paintings by five Vermont artists. Through January 4 at Lord's Ecclesiastic in Waterville. Info: 246-5628.

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**CONFEDERATE PICTURES** is a novel that is popular to find when viewed on a Getty Images website where the Army can find it. War and using photography to look at the war. Through January 7 at the Institute of Contemporary Art in London. Info: 020 7463 1000.

**ELLEN SPYROS NICHOLAS BAKER** found special treasures and silver dust, his jewelry, handcrafted by the Vermont artists. Through December 31 at Art Museum of Fitch, 100-102-0000.

**FRESHEN & FANTASY AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST!** Collections from the museum's vintage clothing collection paired in a 60-Vietnam revival. Novelty Coppy inspired re-creation coats are made from cotton-wool and each is fitted with quick bark waterproofing. Through October 26 at Museum of Modern Medicine. Info: 303-5773

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## Biggest Letdown

**RK:** The *Fifth Estate*, *John and Marnie* all should've done better by their complex, culturally significant subjects, and I was not impressed by *Inside Llewyn Davis*. But the biggest bringdown for me was simply that yet another year went by without a new movie from Jack Nicholson.

**MR:** Let me count the letdowns: *The Counselor*, *The Company* and *Gully Dog Forever* were all grossingly unpleasant movies from writers and filmmakers I respect a great deal. For some reason, all three also featured terrifyingly accurate, spray-tanned women.

## Biggest Surprise

**RK:** No. 1 That someone is finally trying to entice Jack back; and No. 2 that, of all the people who on old rule on this massive impossible, the guy trying to make it happen is everybody's favorite couch-lounging futurologist. Which inspired me to tweet: "No More Than Critics Kicks," *World Promotion*, "If You Pull This Off."

**MR:** That *Blue Is the Warmest Color* was so much about talking and eating so about sex, and that all those activities were weirdly compelling. *Abdullah* of *Kachache's* drama reminded me that movies can immerse us in someone else's sensory experience, *Avatar* style, without using a lack of digital illusion.

## Film That Was So Forgettable, I Didn't Remember Reviewing It Until Doing This Year-End Review

**RK:** I wish or I'm not making this up: I read something about somebody believing *Dead Man* drove desertion in some category and, drawing a blank, I went to Rotten Tomatoes to find out what the movie's about. What do I find staring back at me but my very own review.

**MR:** *Esperanza*. Actually, I do remember the loyal historical drama featuring the pioneering tears of Matthew Fox, but only because my cat died the same week.

## Best New Name to Watch in Front of the Camera

**RK:** You probably didn't catch Mickey Sumner's *7th* Smith impersonation in

the ghastly *CMBG*. If you had, though, there's no way you would have recognized her as Greta Gerwig's *RFP*, *Joplin*, in the *Edith Piaf* *From Paris With Love* is a woman of a million faces, and an undeniably more attractive, unsexed actor than her dad (Dimes). Imperious hold in *CMBG*, 80mg.

**MR:** We disagree on Oscar issues, star of *Inside Llewyn Davis*. I first noticed him in *Seidler* *French* and hoped he'd get a better showcase one day. He's attractive, he's personable, even up to make us care about a prize just like Dimes and, darn it, he can sing!

## Best New Name to Watch Behind the Camera

**RK:** A close one: JC Chandor's second feature, *All Is Lost*, is such a 360 from his 2011 debut, *Margot*. Gaff, that you wonder what the writer-director can't do. And with his riveting, heart-rending, fact-based debut, *Practical* *Station*, writer-director Ryan Coogler took both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audi Award at Sundance. Finally, while Netflix is hardly a new name, what the company is suddenly pulling off behind the camera is completely unprecedented. It used to just rent movies and TV shows. Now it makes them. And very well!

**MR:** *Calabria* already knew *Shane* *Caruth* for *Primer* (2006), but by making, starring in and self-distributing the hypoxic *Upstream Color*, he carved out a place in the annals of oddball art cinema.

## Most Inexplicable Hit

**RK:** *Melrose* for all practical purposes in this year's *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* with the major difference that it blows like Duke Ellington's horn section in hell, flames shooting out the microphone and the devil doing the mashed potato in reverse. *Pro* *mean* *Life* *mean* movies with more artistic integrity. *Judi* *Deuch* totally pulls a *De Niro*.

**MR:** I saw many formulaic blackouts on this year, and their appeal to their core audience — wide-eyed 16-year-olds — was perfectly explicable. Yet I had to marvel at the waste of talent and beloved source material in *The Great and Powerful*, the year's eighth-highest-grossing film and one of its least memorable.

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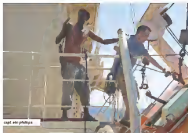
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**Movies 2013** by Dave Karger



**Most Inexplicable Film**

**RK:** There was a time when Spike Lee could do as wrong. It was a long time ago. These days the celebrated auteur can't beg a hit. Thirty million should've bought a movie as stylistically wacked as *Gilders* some overseas love, but, with ticket sales of slightly more than \$1 million, it wound up one of the biggest flops of 2013.

**MB:** Maybe the problem was that everybody who loves stylishly worked movies had already seen the Korean *Gilder*. Speaking of Asian pop cultural exports, in a summer of heavy-headed spectacles about metropolises being destroyed, Pacific Rim stood out for me as the rare one that was just plain fun. Naturally, it sank.

**Freshest, Most Creative Screenplay**

**RK:** This one's a no-brainer, because the past year gave us a brainy, heart-breaking new movie from Spike Jonze. His films are like comets. They don't come around often, but when they do, you want to go out and get a look. That's certainly the case with *Her*, a story of the love that blossoms between a lonely man and a sophisticated digital operating system. The filmmaker and his stars, Joaquin Phoenix and Scarlett Johansson, do the most fantastic work of their career.

**MB:** Well before *Midnight*, Richard Linklater and his two stars kept me interested in the usually not-so-interesting trappings of a cohabitant fringe and married lives.

**Most Formulaic, Cliché-Infested Screenplay**

**RK:** James Wan's 2004 breakthrough, *Saw*, was the definition of torture porn. His latest, on the other hand, was strictly torture. There's a reason so many reviewers described *The Conjuring* as a throwback to horror films of the '70s. The script appropriates tropes and motifs from a decade's worth of movies—and, as the case of one cheeseball chestnut, offers a Virtual Reality. Welcome to *The Amityville Horror 2.0*.

**MB:** Giuseppe MacRae. Yes, I thought was pitiful in *The Mad in the White House*. But with grossingly obvious plot twists and unmemorable one-liners, it can't fit in the box of John McClane's strained wife-beater.

**Best Omen of Civilization's Impending Downfall**

**RK:** I might've said Sofia Coppola's *The Way, Way Back* if I saw Harmony Korine's *Spring Breakers*, a portrait of four female college students who embrace a break in routine as an opportunity to leave behind not only reading, writing and arithmetic, but also their sense of right and wrong. And I'm not talking about taking drugs. I'm talking about taking lives. Coppola's film depicted events that actually happened. The creepy thing is, Korine's story of girls gone wild shows us stuff that, while undeniably, is no longer recognizable.

**MB:** The hilariously comic in the Court where Cameron Diaz has sexual congress with a *Revenge* not, in my

view, an omen of civilization's impending downfall. The fact that Cameron Diaz's sexuality wound up in contempt of that way in. Unless the Palace was not pushing on all with his screenplay, which is a distinct possibility.

**Best Movie With No Movie Stars**

**RK:** *Upstream Color*. Not only did it have no stars, it had no dialogue to help it. It was so out there I made *Midland Drive* look like *Mary Poppins*. Plus, there's a guy whose head is made out of cotton. Of course. Of course. I don't know how you will jump on. I didn't understand a single minute, but I loved it.

**MB:** Hey, we agree! Besides *Upstream Color*, I want to mention *Drug War*, one of the year's best action flicks. Its action is probably a confused state in the active Hong Kong, but not here.

**Worst Movie With an All-Star Cast**

**RK:** One movie would be hard-pressed to compete in more A-listers than August: *Osage County*. Plus, the play it's based on was a Pulitzer. The movie charges out of the gate like *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* with offhanded that isn't imagined, but it's a disaster, so such a display based family formula that you end up wishing they were.

**MB:** The *Conjuring*. This grossing, pretentious, per se, but maybe is my least favorite film of the year, and the year one of *Evil*, *Michael Biehn*, *Brad Pitt*, *Penelope Cruz* and *Brice* *Crash* didn't help. Only *James Bond* managed to make McCordy's overwrought dialogue sound halfway natural.

**Who We'd Like to See More of at the Movies**

**RK:** Jack Nicholson and Gene Hackman have stopped making films, and I wish they'd reconsider. On the other hand, Timothy Bottoms—who played in *79* with *The Paper Chase*—has made a new movie in his nearly every year since. He's great. We just never get to see the movies because they aren't. Somebody should give the deserving actor his Oscar/Dan moment.

**MB:** Unlike to see more of Ryan. Given in his screen roles that explain his talent. No more generic stuff about characters, please. (And let's agree to forget *Reel of Ages*.) You'll never know this is the same guy who mainstreamed the "ouching go" audience with his elegant touches and interactions.

**Who We'd Like to See Less of at the Movies**

**RK:** Based on his loss to 10 or 14 pictures since a *Beginnings* *Reckless*, and he's just gotten less fun with every one. After *Rush* (No. 8) an *Ed Office* *Maya* domestic success and *The Fifth Wave* (declared "The Year's Biggest Flop" by *Rotten*), something tells me we'll be seeing a lot less of the *Brink* later. I can live with that.

**MB:** This is an unpopular opinion, but I've hated *Daniel Craig*. He's talented, and at this point he can afford to stick to roles that make him stretch, as a *James Bond* *Reckless* or *The Year of Life*. There was absolutely no reason to expect his healthiness, so for him to pop up beyond the end of *MI 25* is a blow.

**Best Documentary**

**RK:** *Blackfish*, director Gabriela Cowperthwaite's infuriating and enlightening report on the consequences of keeping cetaceans in captivity in ocean



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12 YEARS A SLAVE

in conditions capable of driving them instantly insane. Thanks to the film, *12 Years a Slave* is the new *Sugar City*. At press time, the list of performers who've canceled appearances there after watching the film includes Willie Nelson, Hootie & the Blowfish and the Baroque Ladies.

**MB:** The Art of Killing. Like *12 Years a Slave*, Anish Kapoor's directorial concerns the institutionalization of inhumanity. The difference is, the people who committed these atrocities are still alive and happy to recount their crimes for the camera. What is

going to see that? Those look like The Godfather next to Saving Mr. Banks, though, which isn't just the most cloying and annoyingly pedantic film of *12 Years a Slave*'s career but of the entire year as well. Somebody in his circle should've spent more time thinking about saving Mr. Banks.

**MB:** I've already mentioned my strong feelings about *The Counselor*, but at least it kept my attention. Not so *After Earth*, which was less a sci-fi adventure than an extended Will Smith motivational speech illustrated by M. Night Shyamalan.

### Best Picture

**RE:** *Nelvana*, *Captain Phillips*, *Frances Ha*, *Enough Said*, *Her* and *Frontline Soldiers*, among others, were all top drawer. But for me, the year comes down to a pair of remarkable passages: one in which human beings do amazing things in the present, and another in which they do appalling things in the past. It comes down to a contest between beauty and ugliness, between *Gravity* and *12 Years a Slave*. Call me a cop-out, but I call it a tie.

**MB:** *Best of Both* wins both. And I haven't seen *American Made* or a few other things yet. But for now, I'm going with *Her*.

You've been waiting for a movie about people's dependence on their handheld devices — the very phenomenon that's helping kill big-screen presentations. But I expected something cheesy, preachy or both. I certainly didn't expect Spike Jonze to construct a genuinely affecting romance between a boy and his software that doubles as a stealth parable to *The Matrix* or *The Terminator* saga. You wait — in a few years, machines will be rewriting the movies and making them 3D.



THE COUNSELOR

all means, and whether Oppenheimer should have offered his feelings to the world, continue to provoke fascinating discussions.

### Worst Picture

**RE:** There was no shortage of big-screen horrors this year, but the low point of awards season has to include each well-deserved failure as *Stories We Tell*, *Philomena* and *Inside Llewyn Davis* (you watch, almost nobody's

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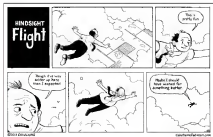
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**Curses, Foiled Again**

Johnny Delano, 20, was thwarted in his attempt to steal bubblegum from cars parked outside a restaurant in Harris County, Texas, where law officers were holding a retirement party. After an officer who spotted Delano confront him, about 10 deputies inside the restaurant rushed outside to assist. Noting that Delano failed to notice the parking lot full of a multitude of marked and unmarked police vehicles, Assistant Chief Tim Conner commented, "Unfortunately for him, his last for thievery overrode any form of common sense which placed him straight into the hands of law enforcement officers" (Houston Chronicle).

**When Guns Are Outlived**

Ophelia Neal, 35, pleaded guilty to robbing a bank with two cans of spaghetti sauce. Police said Neal entered the bank in Macomb County, Mich., and told a clerk she was carrying a bomb in her cloth bag. She fled with an undisclosed amount of cash but was later arrested with the bag, which contained the spaghetti sauce. (United Press International)

**Critter Alert**

After a resident reported spotting a nocturnal raccoon in his front yard in Alexandria, Va., an animal control oficer investigated and also observed it was a break from a pink brown. (Washington Post)

**Pay-As-You-Go Getaway**

Police pursuing a Car2Go vehicle going 75 mph in a 40 mph zone in Austin, Texas, reported that the driver crashed and fled on foot. Car2Go is a car sharing service whose members can rent thousands of vehicles by the minute wherever they're parked. The driver spotted another Car2Go vehicle and took off, but after it turned down a dead-end road, police arrested driver Richard Delano, 33. A Car2Go official said the company would "verify [his] membership status." (Austin's KXAN-TV)

**Didn't See It Coming**

Claiming to be a psychic, Stephanie Thompson took more than \$10,000 from a client, telling her the money was cursed and that she would return it after dousing it. Instead, Thompson lost the money gambling, police say. (Fox 35, WFLA-TV, said after warning her. (Miami's WPLG-TV)

**Justice Is the Nume, Justice Is the Game**

Prosecutors in Wilkes-Barre County, Penn., filed a motion alleging to defense attorney Drew Justice referring to them in court as "the government," arguing that "such a reference is used in a derogatory way and is meant to make the State's attorney mean oppression and to inflame the jury." Justice filed his own motion, demanding that his client be referred to not as "the

Defendant," but as "Mister," "The Citizen Accused" or "the innocent man" — since all defendants are presumed innocent until found guilty. Justice also stated that he should be addressed as "Defender of the Innocent," "Guardian of the Realm" or "Captain Justice." Circuit Court Judge Michael Waddley rejected the prosecution's motion, saying the word "government" wasn't derogatory. (Washington's The Times News)

Ophelia Neal pleaded guilty to robbing a bank with two cans of spaghetti sauce.

**The Kyes Have It**

Unfavorable reaction to a Facebook photo of students at Thursday's Kean University wearing special "non-cheating bibs" caused controversy and stress to the faculty, according to dean Theodore Sigmon. Instead, preventing the school to do so in their own time. The problem, posted on the university's website, the check page, showed the cardboard items consisting of a headband with two sheets of blank paper draped on both sides of the head to keep students from looking at their neighbors' answers. Only about 90 students on one course wore the bibs, which they designed themselves following a class discussion of how to prevent cheating. (NPR)

**Second Amendment Follies**

Shoplifting a bank in Adelaide, Ohio, included the store and called 911, after they spotted four men get out of their car with guns. A few minutes later, the men got back in their car and left, but the shoplifting gun store sheriff's deputies a good description of the vehicle, along with their license numbers. Investigators who stopped the vehicle discovered that the four men had arranged online to meet to buy guns from each other, according to Sheriff George Lunsdale Jr., who commented, "What more stupid a thing could you do than not right there in a picture window looking and not buying a gun?" (Columbus's WTVN-TV)

**BISS** by Harry Bliss

oh for gods sake! Its a book?

**LED R All**

# RED MEAT

Festively fleshy tender blocks

from the secret files of  
**MAX CANNON**



# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

## 2013

A HIGHLY SUBJECTIVE AND WOEFULLY IN-ACCURATE LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR IN **CRAZY** MAYBE THE FIRST

**JAN. 31:** JOHN KERRY IS SENT TO PRISON FOR KILLING THOSE AT GULFSTREAM PARK

**FEBRUARY:** ARIANNE MATH ACTUALLY COMMITTED THE ACT OF SHOOTING

**MARCH:** 500,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME TO FIND NO JOBS

**APRIL:** 100,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME TO FIND NO JOBS

**MAY:** 100,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME TO FIND NO JOBS

**JUNE:** 100,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME TO FIND NO JOBS

**JULY:** 100,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME TO FIND NO JOBS

**AUGUST:** 100,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNING HOME TO FIND NO JOBS

**JAN. 17:** HEAVY-GATED READING THE CRUISE IN-RECENTLY REVEALING A

**FEB. 17:** THE CRUISE IN-RECENTLY REVEALING A

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# FUNGUS

A COMIC STRIP BY  
**JAMES KOCHALKA**  
(NATIONAL LEADER OF FUNGUS)

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**LAST CHANCE FOR 2013 PROMOTIONS!**

## WHAT TO WEAR WHERE

BY J. PATRICK LEWIS

When I was a boy  
in Louisiana,  
we wore blue jeans  
and a red bandanna.

My folks moved up  
to the state of Maine,  
we wore duck shoes  
in slicker-suit rain.

My folks moved down  
to the state of Texas,  
we wore brand names  
like Lazy X's.

Now that we're living  
it up in Vermont,  
we wear pretty much  
whatever we want.

### WHY DID I CHOOSE THIS POEM TO CLOSE OUT A WONDERFUL YEAR AT HEALTHY LIVING?

It reminds me of the amazing staff I'm surrounded by, a group of wild and wonderful folks who come to work dedicated to being themselves every day while truly taking on our mission to serve. While they "wear pretty much whatever they want," they're all dedicated to something I've devoted myself to since the beginning of Healthy

Living: SERVICE. I am deeply grateful to them for taking on service exactly the way I dream of it. They serve our loyal and wonderful community. They serve our farmers and our vendors. They serve our truck drivers. And so importantly, they serve each other!

My deep thanks for 2013... my hopes and dreams for a peaceful, healthy, wonderful 2014.

**KATY LESSER**

HEALTHY LIVING FOUNDER AND CO. OWNER

